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PART VII.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF THIBET.

January to June 1906.

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Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Thibet.

PART VII.

[521]

No. 1.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir E. Satow.

(No. 7.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, January 3, 1906.

THIBET Adhesion Agreement.

What do you recommend as the best way of reopening negotiations with China, should the Indian Government desire to do so?

Do you consider it preferable for them to do so with Ch'ang at Calcutta, or for you to negotiate at Peking with the Chinese Government?

[1162]

No. 2.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Spring-Rice.

No. 11.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 3, 1906.

THE Russian Ambassador read to me to-day a Memorandum of what Lord Lansdowne had said to him with regard to the effect and intention of the British Treaty with Thibet. I told him that things still remained in the same position, and that the negotiations with China had related solely to China's adhesion to the Treaty with Thibet to which Lord Lansdowne had referred. We were not making new stipulations with China, but simply asking her to countersign what Thibet had agreed to, and the question had in no way changed since Lord Lansdowne spoke to Count Benckendorff.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

[579]

No. 3.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 5.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 27th December, relative to the conclusion of the Thibet negotiations at Calcutta and the treatment to be accorded to the Chinese Commissioner during the visit of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales.

India Office, January 4, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

December 27, 1905.

THIBET. Your telegram of the 24th.

Courtesy suitable to Chang's official rank in China should be duly accorded to him; nothing, however, should be done which is inconsistent with the fact that Chang's official Mission is at an end, and with the decision that negotiations are not to be reopened at Calcutta.

This telegram should be repeated by you to His Majesty's Minister at Peking.

[672]

No. 4.

Sir E. Satow to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 5.)

(No. 3.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, January 5, 1906.

THIBET. Please see your telegram No. 7 of the 3rd instant.

For the Viceroy to reopen negotiations now with Chang after they have been so formally broken off would probably be awkward for the Indian Government (please refer to Viceroy's telegram of the 15th November, 1905).

I received a visit here from Tang on the 12th December (subsequent to my telegram of the 25th November to the Marquess of Lansdowne), and in the course of the visit he told me that Prince Ching's opinion was that, while the Chinese Government saw the necessity of recognizing the possession of common interest in Thibet by Great Britain and China, they thought it was hardly just if one of the parties presented a draft to the other wherein the alteration of no single word was allowed the latter, as the Chinese Government understood me to imply in my note of the 7th December (this note was founded on telegram No. 186 of the 4th December from the Marquess of Lansdowne).

I understood from Tang that he would visit me again in order to discuss this subject; he did not, however, recur to the subject in the course of a visit he paid me on the 26th December on different business.

In the course of conversations with him, I gather that the Chinese Government wish the alteration of Article IX of the Lhasa Convention.

It would be difficult to carry on the negotiations, which would in all probability be protracted, because the Chinese habit of negotiating is to begin by asking for a concession on one point, and when that point is conceded to them, another is then put forward, and so on; they will then turn round, when they have got all they can, and withdraw anything which may have been offered in exchange by them.

Were I to express myself as favouring the resumption of negotiations at Peking, it is possible that I might be expected to perform more than is in my power.

Should His Majesty's Government decide, however, to place the affair in my hands, I should like to have some latitude as to the choice of a favourable moment and also some general indications as to how far His Majesty's Government would go in the way of concession in order to bring the matter to a speedy conclusion.

I beg to refer to my telegram No. 223 of the 25th November, last paragraph.

[950]

No. 5.

Sir E. Satow to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 8, 1906.)

(No. 379.)

My Lord,

Peking, November 13, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith, with reference to my telegram No. 207 of the 8th instant, copy of the note addressed to me by the Chinese Government, protesting against the visit paid by Captain O'Connor, with an escort of soldiers, to a place named Hou Chao, and requesting me to induce His Majesty's Government to instruct him to withdraw his troops without delay.

I have sent a copy of this note to his Excellency the Viceroy of India.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

ERNEST SATOW.

Inclosure in No. 5.

Prince Ch'ing to Sir E. Satow.

Sir,

Peking, November 7, 1905.

ON the 5th instant we received a telegram from Mr. Chang, the Commissioner who is continuing the negotiations in respect to the Thibet-Indian Treaty, to the effect that he had received a report from Fan Ch'i-jung, the Commissary of Farther (Western) Thibet, according to which a British officer, named O'Connor, with thirty soldiers, had arrived, on the 14th September, at Hou Chao, giving out that they had come to worship the Buddha. After them, in succession, came further forces, escorting munitions of war.

We have the honour to point out, with reference to the above, that Hou Chao is not on the trade frontier, and that by Treaty it should not be thus approached at will. The action of the British officer concerned in arbitrarily proceeding thither with troops constitutes an infringement of Treaty, and we have consequently the honour to request your Excellency to communicate speedily with His Majesty's Government, with a view to instructions being issued to the officer above named to withdraw his troops without delay.

Awaiting the honour of a reply, we avail, &c.

[957]

No. 6.

Sir E. Satow to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 8, 1906.)

(No. 386.)

My Lord,

Peking, November 14, 1905.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 9th instant, instructing me to inform the Chinese Government that, unless their Commissioner, Mr. Chang Yin-t'ang, at the meeting which the British Commissioner, Mr. Fraser, would have with him, accepted the draft Adhesion Agreement proposed by the Indian Government, with the omission, if necessary, of clause 1, the negotiations would be broken off and the adhesion of China dispensed with, and to the telegram I received from the Government of India, stating that the interview would take place on the 14th instant, I have the honour to inclose a Memorandum by Mr. Campbell reporting the communication of this message to his Excellency Nat'ung on the 10th instant, and also copy of a semi-official note which I addressed to Prince Ch'ing on the following day conveying the announcement in writing.

Your Lordship will observe that his Excellency Nat'ung admitted that, though full powers had been telegraphed to Mr. Chang, which was done on the 3rd October, no instructions had been sent to him with regard to the signature of the Adhesion Agreement.

In my semi-official note I reminded his Highness of the definite statement I made to him on the 28th September, by your Lordship's instructions, that His Majesty's Government were unable to make any further modifications in the terms of the Arrangement which Mr. Tang Shao-yi had been asked to sign, and that if this Arrangement were not accepted His Majesty's Government would rest satisfied with the Agreement concluded with Thibet, and dispense altogether with the adhesion of China. I recalled that on the 20th October his Excellency Nat'ung was informed that negotiations should be resumed by Mr. Chang, as he had already received his full powers, and that instructions should be sent to him to meet the views of His Majesty's Government. On that occasion his Excellency had been left under no doubt that the probable effect of a failure to send suitable instructions would be that His Majesty's Government, instead of resuming negotiations, would close the discussion. My note terminated by stating again that Mr. Fraser would proceed to Calcutta for the purpose of meeting Mr. Chang on the 14th instant, and that unless he then accepted the draft, with the omission, if necessary, of clause 1, negotiations would be broken off and the adhesion of China to the Lhasa Convention be dispensed with.

Late last night I received his Highness' reply acknowledging the receipt of my note. It entirely disregards the warning conveyed to the Chinese Government that if the draft were not accepted negotiations would be broken off, but insists, on the

contrary, that it must still be discussed, and that Mr. Fraser should continue the negotiations in an amicable spirit with their Commissioner.

This answer on the part of the Chinese Government seems to denote their intention to refuse acceptance of the Adhesion Agreement proposed by the Government of India unless they obtain the modifications desired by them with the object of practically nullifying the Lhasa Convention.

A copy of this despatch, with its inclosures, will be forwarded to the Government of India.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ERNEST SATOW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 6.

Memorandum by Mr. Campbell.

I CALLED at the Wai-wu Pu at 4:30 P.M. and saw the Grand Secretary Na. He was about to call on Viceroy Yuan, who had arrived by train at 1 P.M.

Thibetan Negotiations.—I told him that Sir E. Satow had received telegraphic instructions from His Majesty's Government to inform the Chinese Government that the Indian Foreign Secretary, Mr. Fraser, would meet the Imperial Commissioner Chang Yin-t'ang at Calcutta on the 14th November, and that unless Chang then accepted the draft Agreement, with the omission, if necessary, of clause 1, negotiations would be broken off and Chinese adherence to the Lhasa Convention dispensed with.

I mentioned that, according to our information, Chang had received his full powers, but no instructions.

His Excellency said that it was quite correct that Chang had been sent no instructions. He took special note of the date of the 14th November, and, calling in Tso Tajen, repeated to him what I had said for purposes of record.

I said that Sir Ernest would address a letter to the Wai-wu Pu on the subject.
(Signed) C. W. CAMPBELL.

November 10, 1905.

Inclosure 2 in No. 6.

Sir E. Satow to Prince Ch'ing.

Your Highness,

Peking, November 11, 1905.

ON the 18th September I received a letter from your Highness informing me that an Imperial Decree had been issued granting his Excellency T'ang Shao-yi permission to return to China for reasons of health, and appointing Chang Yin-t'ang to continue the negotiations respecting the Thibetan Treaty.

In a personal interview on the 28th September I told your Highness that I was instructed by His Majesty's Government to state definitely that they were unable to make any further modifications of the terms of the Arrangement which T'ang Shao-yi was asked to sign, and that, if this Arrangement was not accepted, His Majesty's Government would rest satisfied with the Agreement concluded with Thibet and dispense altogether with China's adhesion.

On the 2nd October, by direction of His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I expressed a hope that full powers would be sent to Chang Yin-t'ang, by telegraph, to obviate delay; and next day your Highness was so good as to send me the text of an Imperial Decree issuing the desired instructions.

On the 20th October the Grand Secretary Nat'ung was informed verbally that, Chang Yin-t'ang having received full powers, negotiations should be resumed at once, but that it would be useless to do this unless the instructions sent to Chang authorized him to meet the views of His Majesty's Government. His Excellency was left under no doubt that the probable effect of a failure to send suitable instructions would be that His Majesty's Government, instead of resuming negotiations, would close the discussion.

I have now received telegraphic instructions from His Majesty's Government to inform the Chinese Government that the British Commissioner, Mr. Fraser, is proceeding to Calcutta for the special purpose of meeting his Excellency Chang Yin-t'ang on the 14th November, and that unless his Excellency Chang then accepts the draft Agreement, with the omission, if necessary, of clause 1, negotiations will be broken off and the adhesion of China to the Lhasa Agreement dispensed with.

Under instructions from me, Mr. Campbell called at the Wai-wu Pu yesterday and made the above communication verbally to the Grand Secretary Nat'ung, and I have now the honour to place it on record in writing.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) ERNEST SATOW.

Inclosure 3 in No. 6.

Prince Ch'ing to Sir E. Satow.

(Translation.)

Your Excellency,

Kuang Hsü, 31st year, 10th moon, 17th day
(November 13, 1905).

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 11th November to the effect that the Wai-wu Pu was informed some time ago that, his Excellency Chang Yin-t'ang having received full powers, negotiations should be resumed at once, and that you were now in receipt of a telegram stating that the British Commissioner was proceeding to Calcutta for the special purpose of meeting his Excellency Chang on the 14th November.

I would observe that the Indo-Thibetan Treaty* must still be discussed with a view to a settlement, and as the British Commissioner is proceeding to Calcutta he should continue the negotiations in an amicable spirit with Commissioner Chang, who has been appointed for that purpose.

While requesting your Excellency to communicate the above reply to His Majesty's Government, I avail, &c.

[960]

No. 7.

Sir E. Satow to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 8, 1906.)

(No. 389.)

My Lord,

Peking, November 15, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of Prince Ch'ing's note, mentioned in my telegram of yesterday, in which his Highness communicates an Imperial Decree of the 13th November, announcing that China will pay the indemnity due from Thibet to the Indian Government, and instructing the Resident at Lhasa to make this known publicly.

In view of the unacceptable amendments which are understood to have been proposed by Mr. T'ang Shao-yi to the draft Adhesion Agreement put before him by the Government of India, with the object of securing that the Chinese Government should be the intermediary of all communications between India and Thibet, it seems reasonable to conclude that this declaration of their intention to pay the indemnity is intended to force the hand of the Indian Government, and induce them to accept an arrangement which the Chinese Government could afterwards quote as a precedent in other matters.

I ventured accordingly to suggest that I should be instructed to inform Prince Ch'ing that payment from the Chinese Government would not be accepted.

Copy of this despatch and inclosure has been sent to the Viceroy of India.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ERNEST SATOW.

* A Chinese short title for the Adhesion Agreement.—TRANSLATOR.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Prince Ch'ing to Sir Ernest Satow.

(Translation.)

Your Excellency,

Peking, November 13, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to state that the following Imperial Decree was issued on the 13th November :—

“In consequence of the British military expedition to Thibet, it was arranged that Thibet should pay an indemnity, in instalments, extending over three years. The present condition of the Thibetan tribes is one of extreme poverty, and the Court, out of deep compassion for their economic difficulties, commands that this indemnity, amounting to over 1,200,000 taels, shall be paid for them by the State. Yu-t'ai is hereby commanded to announce this act of grace publicly.”

While notifying that the first instalment will be paid over at the due date, I have the honour to communicate the above Decree for your Excellency's information.

[1074]

No. 8.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 8.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 8th January, relative to the status of Chang, the Chinese Commissioner in the recent Thibet negotiations at Calcutta.

India Office, January 8, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 8.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

January 8, 1906.

YOUR telegram of the 27th instant.

Chang has been away from Calcutta on tour. Is suffering from influenza, and has now returned. It has been ascertained by informal inquiry that, unless treated as Chinese Plenipotentiary, he was unwilling to take part in any social or other functions. His status in China would not entitle him to the special honours that he desires, as he is of low rank. It seemed better, therefore, unless he should move in the matter himself, to leave him alone and to respect his present retirement.

(Repeated to Peking.)

[1147]

No. 9.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 9.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 5th instant, relative to the reopening of the negotiations with China as to adherence to the Thibet Convention.

India Office, January 8, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 9.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

January 5, 1906.

WITH reference to the question of Chinese adherence to Thibet Convention, a telegram dated the 3rd instant has been addressed to Sir E. Satow asking what he would recommend as the best way of reopening negotiations with China, in the event of the Indian Government being desirous of doing so, viz., whether negotiations should be left to His Majesty's Minister at Peking, or whether they should be resumed with Chang at Calcutta.

I shall be glad to receive, by telegraph, a statement of your views on the following questions, viz. :—

1. Whether it is desirable to renew negotiations, due consideration being given to the importance of securing the adhesion of China, from the point of view of international policy?
2. What are the conditions on which, so far as experience of recent negotiations enables you to judge, Chinese adhesion may be expected? and
3. Where should negotiations be conducted, if it is decided to resume them?

I should also be glad to know when report of the recent negotiations may be expected to reach me.

[1282]

No. 10.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 10.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 7th December, relative to the invitation to the Tashi Lama, the Maharaja of Sikkim, and the Tongsa Penlop of Bhutan to visit India.

India Office, January 9, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 10.

Captain O'Connor to Mr. White.

(Confidential.)

Camp Changu (Sikkim), November 23, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to address you regarding certain points of view connected with the approaching visit of the Tashi Lama to India, which appear to me to merit your attention and that of the Government of India.

2. As reported by me in several of my diaries from Gyantse, the Tashi Lama sent messengers more than once to sound me as to the possibility of receiving the assistance of the Government of India against the Lhasa Government, should the latter attempt to oppress or molest him. Following upon these overtures, came the suggestion of the Government of India* that the Lama should be invited to visit India, and on being asked to give my opinion upon the point, I replied in my telegram dated the 25th June, 1905, that, "If the Government are prepared to make definite promise to Lama to protect him against any attempted vengeance on part of Lhasa Government, I am of opinion that civilities on our part are distinctly advisable, including an invitation to visit Calcutta, which he would probably accept, provided he is given some such guarantee as suggested above. . . . Failing such guarantee, it would not be fair to Lama to ask him to compromise himself with us, nor I think would he care himself to do so."

3. Shortly after this I received instructions to proceed to Shigatse and to sound the Tashi Lama as to his willingness to accept an invitation to visit Calcutta; and in your telegram dated the 8th September, 1905, you instructed me to point out

* This refers to a query of mine sent on the 25th June, to which this reply was sent.—J. C. WHITE.

to the Lama that "It is greatly to his advantage and interest for him to visit Calcutta," and in your letter dated the 9th September, 1905, you say: "He has made certain proposals to you, and the invitation is being issued in consequence of these proposals, and it ought to be very much to his advantage to accept it."

4. In accordance with these instructions, I proceeded to Shigatse, and in sounding the Lama as to his willingness to accept the invitation, I pointed out that it was being issued very much in consequence of his overtures to the Indian Government made through me, and that it would be greatly to his advantage to accept it. Beyond this, I have made no promise either in my own name or that of the Government of India.

5. The Lama, then, has accepted the invitation to Calcutta, clearly understanding that it involves a promise of help from us against any attempted retaliation on the part of the Lhasa Government, and, as I pointed out in my telegram dated the 25th June, 1905, quoted above, such a promise on our part would, in my opinion, be amply sufficient to restrain the Lhasa authorities from any actual measures of hostility, and that the necessity for the employment of force to back our promise would be in the last degree improbable. But in writing the above-mentioned telegram I made no mention of a very much more serious danger to which the Lama was liable to expose himself by proceeding to India—namely, that of offending his Chinese patrons. As I have already pointed out in the course of official correspondence, the Dalai Lama, Tashi Lama, and all the higher officials of Thibet receive their appointments by virtue of their ratification by the Chinese Emperor, without which they are invalid. By this simple method the Chinese make these two great Lamas, the four Shapes, and other officials of the Lhasa and Tashi Lhumpo Governments directly dependent upon the good-will and pleasure of the Emperor, and so, to a certain extent, upon that of the Amban and other Chinese officials in Thibet, who forward and recommend the various appointments. And as the Emperor of China can confirm an appointment, so also he can remove or degrade the incumbent.

6. Besides this, the Lamas of Lhasa and Tashi Lhumpo receive yearly and on great occasions valuable gifts from China, such as silks, gold, silver, ponies, cloisonne, &c., and from these are made many of the decorations of the temples and images, and even the dresses and ornaments worn both by monks and laymen.

7. It will be seen, then, to how great an extent the leading men of Thibet, and among them the Tashi Lama, are dependent upon the good-will of their Chinese suzerains. Chinese power in Thibet may be a delusion, but their prestige and their political skill are beyond question. They are adepts at the art of adapting a small means to a large end. Chinese usages prevail largely in all State and official functions. The Tashi Lama's banners and insignia of rank, the form of his camp, the colour of his dresses, and innumerable other details, are all borrowed from China. Above his chairs of State, hangs a board with the Emperor's confirmatory mandate written or carved in great gilt Chinese and Thibetan characters. He never leaves the purlieus of his palaces without the consent of the Emperor or the Amban. And besides this, almost every detail of the higher civilization of Thibet is borrowed directly from China and grafted on to the primitive barbarisms of the natives of the country.

8. If these facts are taken into consideration, it will be seen how very important a step the Tashi Lama has taken in accepting the invitation of the Government of India to visit Calcutta without first receiving formal sanction to such a course from China. He is violating thereby the immemorial traditions followed by his predecessors, and he is accepting the risk of certain political destruction (both for himself and his whole following) should he fail to secure the support of the Indian Government on his return to Shigatse. As mentioned in my recent diaries, threats of disgrace against the Lama and his Prime Minister have already been fulminated by the Amban should the visit take place without the consent of the Emperor being first obtained.

9. I have ventured here briefly to indicate the position of the Tashi Lama and his following as it appears to me to exist at the present moment. As regards any action on the part of the Lhasa Government, we need not, I think, very greatly concern ourselves. Given our moral support, the Tashi Lama is prepared to ignore them, and I do not believe that they are in a position seriously to injure him. But the resentment of the Chinese is quite another matter. It is of course to be hoped that the fact of the Lama paying a friendly visit to India to see the Buddhist shrines, and to meet His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and his Excellency the Viceroy, without the consent of the Chinese Emperor will not be construed by China as a serious offence. But if this line of action should result in the denouncing and degrading of the Lama and his principal officers by China, the situation would be a very difficult one, and our position in Thibet would become almost impossible.

10. But as such a possibility has to be considered, I venture to make a few suggestions here as to the course we might adopt in order to counteract to some extent the measures which China may take to re-establish the authority which the Lama is now deliberately ignoring. In the first place it is, I think, a *sine qua non* that we should establish our Agent at Shigatse instead of Gyantse. An Agent at the former place is in a position to feel the political pulse of that part of Thibet, and to make himself acquainted with everything that goes on without attracting too marked attention. The mere fact of his presence with a small escort would be sufficient to prevent effectually any active measures of resentment on the part either of the Lhasa Government or of the Chinese. And he would be regarded by the people generally as the informal guardian and protector of the Lama. Nor need we seek far for a perfectly legitimate pretext for a change of our Trade Agent's head-quarters. In the Lhasa Convention it is stipulated that arrangements may be concerted for the opening of new marts, should the development of trade require it, and I am prepared to give facts and figures to prove that of the two places Shigatse is commercially by far the most important, and the increase in the volume of the trade during the last twelve months shows a development which may well be regarded as coming within the conditions contemplated by the Treaty.

11. This step, then, would, I think, secure the Lama and his court against any actual aggression; but if we deprive him of Chinese support and its concomitant benefits, we should endeavour to substitute therefor some equivalent advantages. These would have to take the shape of, first, a high rank, and, secondly, some material consideration, such as an annual subsidy and various presents.

12. There still remains the question whether such expenditure would be justified by the political advantages which we should secure by taking the Lama under our protection. It is, I think, clear that our only real security against the intrigues of foreign Powers in Thibet would be the establishment of an Agent in Lhasa itself. Failing this, the best we can hope for is to safeguard that part of Thibet bordering upon India from foreign influences. This end cannot be obtained merely by the establishment of an Agent at Gyantse. Gyantse is a place of no political, and but small commercial, importance. The Agent there is not in a position to keep himself in touch with the leading men of Thibet, or even to ascertain what is going on at Lhasa and Shigatse, except through the very unsatisfactory medium of secret agents. At Shigatse, however, the case would be different, and a British Agent stationed there could make certain that the province of Tsang, at any rate, was free from undesirable intrigues. This at least would be a substantial gain, and would place us in a position to checkmate effectually any forward policy directed from the north upon Lhasa and the friendly buffer States lying between Thibet and India. In a word, it would definitely attain the object aimed at in the recent Thibet Mission, which, as things are at present, has not been secured. The cost would be trifling; and as our prestige gradually increased, the necessity for expenditure would diminish.

13. In a word, the policy which I would indicate for our adoption in Thibet is somewhat as follows: To seize the present favourable opportunity for cementing our friendship with the Tashi Lama, even going so far, if necessary, as to subsidize and protect him. To open, under the terms of the Lhasa Convention, a new trade mart at Shigatse. And to let it be clearly understood that any intrigues of other foreign Powers at Lhasa would be met by a corresponding extension of our influence in the province of Tsang and Southern Thibet. And all this might be done without openly impugning or infringing Chinese suzerainty.

14. In conclusion, I would venture to say a few words regarding our guest, the Tashi Lama. It is difficult for matter-of-fact Europeans to realize the hold these great incarnate Lamas have upon the affections and imaginations of the Thibetans and the inhabitants of the neighbouring Buddhist countries. It is no exaggeration to say that the passage of the Tashi Lama through Thibet excites as much emotion and veneration as would the reappearance of Christ amongst the inhabitants of Europe. Just as we read in Scripture of the people thronging upon the house-tops to see Him and pressing forward to touch the hem of His garment, so exactly do these simple Buddhists venerate the person and personal belongings of the Tashi Lama. His passage through Thibet has been an extraordinary revelation to me of the depth and sincerity of the feelings of these people for their religion. The women of the crowds become quite hysterical when the Lama's chair appears in sight, weeping and gasping with mingled feelings of awe and reverence. The crowds jostle and fight for the privilege of touching with their bowed heads the fringes of his saddle trappings, his sedan chair, and even his personal baggage and belongings. The only difficulty experienced on the march has been

occasioned by the jealousy of the inhabitants of Lower Chumbi, because the Lama halted at Lingmatang in Upper Chumbi, and could not halt at Chumbi. They prostrated themselves upon the ground before me, imploring that the Lama might halt there if only for one night; and when I was obliged, owing to the orders of Government, to decline their request, they point-blank refused to supply the transport required of them; and it was only by expostulating with them and pointing out that such a course would inconvenience the Lama himself, that I induced them to furnish the necessary animals. We have, in fact, at this moment a card in our hands of the most extraordinary value; and if we use our opportunity, as we should, and impress the Lama and his following favourably as to our generosity and power, we may accomplish more by winning the affection and confidence of the Lama at a small cost than we could possibly achieve by winning battles, making Treaties, and posting garrisons at a cost of many millions.

15. I have ventured to make these remarks, as it has occurred to me, partly in consequence of some recent correspondence connected with the Lama's visit to India, that the Government of India may not thoroughly realize the true significance of the Lama's action in accepting their invitation, or what a unique opportunity they now possess for securing our influence permanently in the most important part of Thibet at a price quite disproportionate to the results to be obtained.

[1456]

No. 11.

Sir E. Satow to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 7.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, January 11, 1906.

THIBET negotiations.

The following is a translation of the draft of a Convention which was left here with me yesterday in Chinese by T'ang Shao-yi with a request from Prince Ch'ing that I should communicate it to His Majesty's Government:—

"Treaty between Great Britain and China.

"ARTICLE I.

"The Convention concluded on the 7th September, 1904, by the Governments of Great Britain and Thibet, the texts of which in English and Chinese are attached to the present Convention as an Annexe, shall be faithfully observed by both of the High Contracting Parties, subject to the modification stated in the ratification appended thereto, and both of the High Contracting Parties shall, whenever the necessity arises, take steps to secure the due fulfilment of the terms specified therein.

"ARTICLE II.

"The Government of Great Britain engages not to encroach upon Thibetan territory, or to interfere in the Administration of Thibet. The Government of China also undertakes not to permit any other foreign State to interfere with the territory or internal administration of Thibet.

"ARTICLE III.

"The concessions which are mentioned in Article IX (d) of the Convention concluded on the 7th September, 1904, by the Governments of Great Britain and Thibet are denied to any other State, or to the subject of any other State, but at the trade marts specified in Article II of the aforesaid Convention, Great Britain shall by arrangement with China obtain the privilege of laying down telegraph lines connecting with India.

“ARTICLE IV.

“Such of the provisions of the two Indo-Thibetan Agreements of 1890 and 1893, concluded by the Governments of Great Britain and China, as do not conflict with the purport of the present Convention shall remain in full force.

“ARTICLE V.

“The English and Chinese texts of the present Convention have been carefully compared and found to correspond, but in the event of there being any difference of meaning between them the English text shall be authoritative.

“ARTICLE VI.

“This Convention shall be ratified by the Sovereigns of both countries and ratifications shall be exchanged within a fixed number of days after the date of signature by the Plenipotentiaries of both Powers.

“Two copies each of the English and Chinese texts of this Convention shall be prepared, and all four shall be signed and sealed by the Plenipotentiaries of both Powers.”

I will send my observations on the draft in a following telegram.

As I consider it inadvisable that the Chinese Government should know that I am repeating to India a long telegram which they will know is about Thibet, and which in consequence may cause them to imagine that we are trying to make difficulties, I beg that you will have this telegram and the one which follows repeated to India from London.

[1451]

No. 12.

Sir E. Satow to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 8.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, January 11, 1906.

PLEASE refer to my telegram No. 7 on the subject of Thibet.

I understand from his Excellency T'ang Shao-yi that Article I is the same as the second Article of the draft Convention of the Indian Government.

Some alteration must, I think, be made in the wording of Article II, the words “encroach” and “interfere” being replaced by “annexe” and “intervene” or similar expressions.

I presume that the Contracting Parties are not excluded by the phrase “any other foreign State,” or by “any other State,” which occurs in Article III.

“Have the right” might be substituted for “obtain the privilege” in Article III.

I suggest the omission of the words “by arrangement with China” if objections are entertained to China's intervention.

I understand that Article IV is inserted by the wishes of Prince Ch'ing, though it is redundant. I submit the following Article as more satisfactory:—

“The provisions of the Anglo-Chinese Convention of 1890 and Anglo-Chinese Agreement of 1893 shall, subject to the terms of this present Convention and Annexe thereto, remain in full force.”

I have no observations to offer on Articles V and VI.

(Separate.)

In the above the fifth Article of the draft of the Indian Government has been omitted. Could not an exchange of notes satisfactorily secure its object?

The references are to the text of the Indian Government which was sent me on the 26th April by telegraph.

T'ang has been given clearly to understand that I can do no more than transmit the proposals of his Government to His Majesty's Government, as I have not received authority to discuss the terms.

I am, however, of opinion that a good opportunity of endeavouring to bring about a final settlement is afforded by this voluntary action on the part of China.

[2083]

No. 13.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 17.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 16th instant, relative to visit of the Tashi Lama to India.

India Office, January 16, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 13.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

January 16, 1906.

THIBET. On the 10th instant I received a private visit from the Tashi Lama, who informed me that he wished to make three requests, viz. : (1) that he might be given by me a letter promising him some assistance in the event of a hostile attitude being adopted by the Lhasa authorities or by the Chinese; (2) that we would lend him some arms in the event of his being attacked; and (3) that instructions might be given to our officers at Gyantse to maintain the friendly relations which at present exist between them and him, and to forward his letters; and he further requested permission to send letter to India by special messenger in case of necessity. I informed Lama in reply that his visit of courtesy to India had been the subject of communications between the British and Chinese Governments, and that no objection had been raised by Chinese Government, as long as matters of business were not discussed. It was most improbable, therefore, that there would be any hostility towards him on the part of China in consequence of his visit to India; and he himself would doubtless on his return to Thibet adopt a tactful and correct attitude in regard to it. In the improbable event of China manifesting hostility towards him, our good offices would, I trusted, be exerted on his behalf with the Chinese Government. With regard to his request to be supplied with arms, I pointed out remoteness of the contingency, and said that we could not at present consider it. With regard to his third request, I said that this was quite reasonable, and that instructions in the sense he desired would be issued; in ordinary circumstances, however, the best and quickest channel of communication would be found to be the Trade Agent at Gyantse.

Tashi Lama professed himself quite satisfied; and instructions to Trade Agent at Gyantse to maintain friendly relations with him being quite sufficient, withdrew his request to be given a letter. I then reminded him that he had said he was glad to renew at Shigatse, and confirm by his visit to India, friendly relations with the British, and I expressed the hope that, as the highest spiritual authority in Thibet, he would exercise his great influence with the Thibetans in order to strengthen those friendly relations that now happily prevailed. The Lama replied that it would be his constant endeavour to do so.

At the close of the interview the Lama referred to Buddh Gaya, and asked me to try and improve the conditions there, in order that the worship of Buddhist pilgrims at the temple might be facilitated.

[2203]

No. 14.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 18.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 16th instant, relative to the Thibet indemnity.

India Office, January 17, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 14.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.
THIBET.

January 16, 1906.

Telegraphing on the 31st ultimo, Trade Agent at Gyantse reports that Ti Rimpoche has sent him a letter acknowledging receipt of notice requiring payment at Gyantse on the 1st instant of 100,000 rupees, as first instalment of indemnity. Letter goes on to say that revenue of Thibet is not great, but that it had been stated by Amban that question of payment of 25 lakhs indemnity was to be the subject of discussion with China, in which Tang at Calcutta was to act. Thus, as a result of action of China, the Treaty has been broken by the Tibetans, no payment of indemnity having been made. This places us in an advantageous position in any further negotiations that may be undertaken with the Chinese Government.

We propose to inform Thibetan Government, in reply to Ti Rimpoche's letter, that we hold them responsible for payment of indemnity under terms of Treaty in the manner already notified. The matter can then stand over until it has been decided whether negotiations with China are to be resumed.

(Repeated to Peking.)

[3011]

No. 15.

Sir E. Satow to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 25.)

(No. 414.)

My Lord,

Peking, November 30, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a letter received to-day from the Wai-wu Pu with reference to the visit of the Tashi Lama to India, in which I am asked to warn the Indian Government that the Lama is a Buddhistic hierarch appointed by the Emperor of China, whose functions are purely religious; that the external affairs of Thibet are no concern of his; and that the Chinese Government will not recognize any action of a business nature which he may take during the visit.

A paragraph in a Chinese newspaper published here yesterday states that his Excellency Chang Yin-Tang, the Treaty Commissioner at Calcutta, telegraphed the news of the Lama's visit to the Wai-wu Pu, and mentioned at the same time that he would be accompanied to India by an overawing escort of British troops.

The contents of the Wai-wu Pu's letter were telegraphed to your Lordship to-day in my telegram No. 228.

A copy of this despatch and inclosure has been sent to the Government of India.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ERNEST SATOW.

Inclosure in No. 15.

Wai-wu Pu to Sir E. Satow.

(Translation.)

Sir,

November 30, 1905.

WE have just heard the news that the Panshen Lama is starting on a visit to India.

We have the honour to observe that the Panshen Lama has for generations derived his title and position from this Empire, and that he is appointed to reside in Outer Thibet solely for the purpose of reciting prayers and worshipping Buddha. We suppose that his present visit to India is being undertaken with a view to offering congratulations to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who, it is understood, will shortly arrive in India.

The Lama has, however, no concern whatever with the external affairs of Thibet, and if he takes upon himself to discuss or settle any questions of a business nature, we have the honour to state explicitly that the Chinese Government will in no wise recognize such action.

We trust that your Excellency will be good enough to communicate the contents of this letter to the Government of India.

We avail, &c.

(Cards inclosed.)

[2979]

No. 16.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 25.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 23rd January, relative to the Thibet negotiations with China.

India Office, January 24, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 16.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

January 23, 1906.

THIBET. Your telegram of the 12th January.

Sir E. Satow's comments have our general concurrence, and we see no objection to acceptance of the draft Convention proposed by the Chinese Government, subject (1) to the alterations suggested by His Majesty's Minister at Peking, including the omission from Article II of the words "by arrangement with China," and (2) to satisfactory settlement in the sense of Article V of our original draft being effected by exchange of notes. We would, however, suggest that words "So long as terms of Convention of the 7th September, 1904, are scrupulously fulfilled and the present administration and general status of Thibet is maintained" should be prefixed to Article II, in order to obviate risk of internal administration of Thibet being altered by the Chinese Government to our detriment.

We desire to point out that we do not attach any great importance to the adherence of China, so far as the actual working of the Convention on the spot is concerned; and we regard as a question of greater moment the settlement of the future position of the Dalai Lama. Matters are working smoothly at present in Thibet, and this result will be further assisted by the return of the Tashi Lama after his visit to India, which has been most successful.

If His Majesty's Government are prepared to renew negotiations with China, after so recently breaking them off, it might, perhaps, be possible to arrange that the Chinese should intern the present Dalai Lama (as was done in the case of one of his predecessors) and definitely announce his exclusion from Thibet. This measure would conduce to good relations between Thibet and India, and would allay unrest which at present prevails at Lhasa. Assertion was made by Tang-Shao-yi, in the course of his

negotiations with Fraser, that the removal of the Dalai Lama and appointment of Tashi Lama were carried out because it was understood that the Tashi Lama was friendly to us. An opportunity now arises for the Chinese Government to show how far this profession was genuine.

As regards the place of further negotiations, if His Majesty's Government and the authorities at Peking prefer Calcutta, we should have no objection, provided that draft is settled in the sense proposed by Sir E. Satow.

[3067]

No. 17.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 25.)

Sir,

India Office, January 24, 1906.

WITH reference to Mr. Campbell's letter of the 4th ultimo, on the subject of the payment of the first instalment of the Thibetan indemnity, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to forward, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 16th instant,* reporting the purport of a letter received from the Thibetan Government, from which it appears that they have no present intention of paying the first instalment of the indemnity, on the ground that the matter is under discussion with the Chinese Government.

Subject to Sir E. Grey's concurrence, Mr. Morley is prepared to approve the course of action proposed by the Government of India, viz., to inform the Thibetan Government that His Majesty's Government hold them responsible for the payment of the indemnity under the Treaty. This will not, in Mr. Morley's opinion, preclude His Majesty's Government from eventually accepting payment from China, should an arrangement be arrived at for the adhesion of the Chinese Government to the Thibetan Convention.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[3070]

No. 18.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 25.)

Sir,

India Office, January 24, 1906.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to invite the attention of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the telegram from the Viceroy of the 16th instant, reporting the results of an interview between his Excellency and the Tashi Lama on the 10th instant.

Mr. Morley proposes, subject to any observations which Sir Edward Grey may offer, to approve the language held by the Viceroy in reply to the Tashi Lama's representations.

As regards the question of future correspondence between the Tashi Lama and the Government of India, Mr. Morley would propose, for Sir Edward Grey's consideration, that the Trade Agent at Gyantse and other local British officials should be instructed, while maintaining friendly relations, to confine their communications within the narrowest possible limits, and to avoid any action tending to commit the Government of India to interference with the internal affairs of Thibet and with the relations of the Tashi Lama to the Lhasa Government and the Emperor of China.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

* Already printed.

[3903]

No. 19.

Sir E. Satow to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received January 25.)

(No. 12.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, January 25, 1906.

TELEGRAM of the 23rd January, from Indian Government to Secretary of State for India, on the subject of the Thibetan negotiations, has been repeated to me.

The suspicions of the Chinese Government would be aroused by the second portion of the suggested prefix to Article 2, and they would undoubtedly resist it. In 1901 the Russian Government endeavoured to obtain from China a very similar stipulation concerning Mongolia and Manchuria. (Please refer to Mr. Brennan's despatch to the Foreign Office, No. 7, of the 23rd March, 1901, and to Article 1 of the inclosure in my despatch No. 87, also of that year.)

Perhaps, however, the prefix might be proposed, with a view to its subsequent withdrawal, provided a formal written undertaking to intern the Dalai Lama were received in exchange.

In case I have occasion to refer to assertions made by T'ang in the course of his negotiations with Fraser, I ought to be able to quote his actual words, and mention the occasion on which they were used. For this purpose a copy of the records of the negotiations would be of use to me.

[3285]

No. 20.

Sir E. Satow to the Marquess of Lansdowne.—(Received January 27, 1906.)

(No. 426.)

My Lord,

Peking, December 9, 1905.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 389 of the 15th ultimo, inclosing copy of a note from His Highness Prince Ch'ing, announcing the intention of the Chinese Government to pay on behalf of Thibet the indemnity arranged to be paid in consequence of the British military expedition, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copies of a note which I have addressed to His Highness in reply, informing him that the proposed arrangement of payment on behalf of Thibet cannot be entertained unless the Agreement of Adhesion to the Lhasa Convention, which their Excellencies T'ang Shao-yi and Chang Yin-tang were invited to sign, is concluded.

I am sending a copy of this note to the Government of India.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

ERNEST SATOW.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Sir E. Satow to Prince Ch'ing.

Your Highness,

Peking, December 7, 1905.

ON the 13th ultimo I had the honour to receive a note from your Highness communicating the text of an Imperial Decree of the same date, in which it was announced that, out of deep compassion for the extreme poverty of the Thibetan tribes, the indemnity arranged to be paid in consequence of the British military expedition should be paid by the Chinese Government on behalf of Thibet.

I communicated the contents of this note to His Majesty's Government in due course, and I am now instructed to inform the Chinese Government that, unless the Agreement of Adhesion to the Lhasa Convention, which their Excellencies T'ang Shao-yi and Chang Yin-tang were invited to sign, is concluded, the arrangement proposed of payment on behalf of Thibet cannot be entertained.

I am further instructed to state that if the Chinese Government conclude the above-mentioned Adhesion Agreement, and if payment by China on behalf of Thibet is accepted, His Majesty's Government will abate nothing of their right to enforce the fulfilment of the terms of the Lhasa Convention by such means as may be found convenient.

I avail, &c.

(Signed)

ERNEST SATOW.

[3769]

No. 21.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 31.)

Sir,

India Office, January 30, 1906.

WITH reference to your letter of the 17th instant, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to invite the attention of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the telegram from the Viceroy of the 23rd instant,* on the subject of the draft Treaty with China concerning Thibet, referred to in the telegrams Nos. 7 and 8 of the 11th instant from His Majesty's Minister at Peking.

2. The Government of India see no objection to the acceptance of the draft Treaty now proposed by the Chinese Government, subject to the adoption of the suggestions made by Sir E. Satow. But, with a view to preventing the risk of changes detrimental to their interests being made by China in the internal administration of Thibet, they suggest that certain words might be prefixed to Article II of the Chinese draft Treaty.

3. No such stipulation as is now suggested by the Government of India was included in the draft Convention presented by them to the Chinese Commissioner at Calcutta, and Mr. Morley would not press for its introduction into the Chinese draft Treaty if a proposal to this effect would, as seems probable, be objected to by the Chinese Government. But he would propose, for Sir E. Grey's consideration, that Sir E. Satow should be instructed to sound the Chinese Government on the subject of the definite exclusion of the present Dalai Lama from Thibet.

4. In other respects Mr. Morley agrees with the Government of India. He is of opinion that the Chinese draft may be accepted with the necessary verbal alterations, and that the question of the employment of none but Chinese subjects of Chinese nationality by the Chinese Government in Thibet, which formed the subject of Article V of the draft Convention proposed by the Government of India, may be settled, as suggested by Sir E. Satow, by an exchange of notes.

5. As regards the further negotiations, Mr. Morley is of opinion, having regard to the failure of the negotiations at Calcutta, that they should be in the hands of His Majesty's Minister at Peking.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[3070]

No. 22.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 1, 1906.

I AM directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th ultimo respecting the interview which took place between the Viceroy of India and the Tashi Lama on the 10th instant.

I am to state that Sir E. Grey concurs in the proposal of the Secretary of State for India to approve the language held by the Viceroy in reply to the Tashi Lama's representations.

Sir E. Grey also concurs in the instructions which it is proposed to send to the trade agent at Gyantse, and the other local British officials, regarding their relations with the Tashi Lama.

I am, &c.

(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

* Copy communicated to Foreign Office, January 24, 1906.

[3978]

No. 23.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 2.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a paraphrase of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 31st January, relative to Thibet affairs.

India Office, February 1, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 23.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

January 31, 1906.

YOUR telegram of the 16th instant.

His Majesty's Government approve reply you propose to make to Thibetan Government. This, however, will not preclude our accepting payment of indemnity eventually from Chinese Government, if agreement with them as to Thibet Convention should be arrived at. This telegram should be repeated to His Majesty's Minister at Peking.

[2420]

No. 24.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 5, 1906.

AS you are aware, the Marquess of Lansdowne informed the Russian Chargé d'Affaires on the 27th September, 1904, that Article IX of the Thibet Convention was, as he understood it, in the nature of a self-denying ordinance, which affected Great Britain as well as other Powers.

I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to point out that the provisions of Article III of the draft Convention for the adhesion of China to the Thibet Convention, a copy of which was inclosed in the letter from this Office of the 17th instant, would be open to the interpretation that Great Britain and China are not debarred from obtaining the concessions enumerated in Article IX (d) of the Convention of the 7th September, 1904, and that His Majesty's Minister at Peking has assumed that the words "any other State" used in Article III do not debar the Contracting Parties from obtaining the privileges mentioned in that Article.

It would of course be possible for His Majesty's Government, if again questioned on the subject, to renew the assurances given by Lord Lansdowne to M. Sazonoff, but as Article III in its present form would certainly justify suspicion on the part of the Russian Government, I am to suggest, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for India, that the wording should be so amended as to deny the concessions mentioned in Article IX (d) of the Convention of the 7th September, 1904, to any other State or to the subjects of any other State but China.

Copies of Sir E. Satow's telegrams Nos. 7 and 8,* containing Mr. Tang's draft Convention and Sir E. Satow's criticisms thereon, are inclosed for convenience of reference, together with Lord Lansdowne's despatch No. 344 of the 27th September, 1904, to His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg,† recording his Lordship's conversation with M. Sazonoff above referred to.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

F. A. CAMPBELL.

* Nos. 11 and 12.

† To Sir C. Hardinge, No. 344, September 27, 1904.

[4589]

No. 25.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 7.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a paraphrase of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 5th instant, relative to the visit of the Tashi Lama to India.

India Office, February 6, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 25.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, February 5, 1906.

YOUR telegram of the 16th ultimo : Thibet.

His Majesty's Government approve your reply to Tashi Lama's representations. As regards correspondence in future, our local officials should, while maintaining friendly relations with Tashi Lama, confine their communications with him within the narrowest possible limits, and any action tending to interference with his relations to the Emperor of China or to the Government of Lhasa, and with the internal affairs of Thibet, should be avoided by them. Instructions in this sense should be issued to Trade Agent at Gyantse and other British local officials.

[4839]

No. 26.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 9.)

Sir,

India Office, February 8, 1906.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to acknowledge receipt of Mr. Campbell's letter of the 5th instant, relative to the Chinese draft Convention for the adhesion of China to the Anglo-Thibetan Convention.

Mr. Morley is aware that Sir E. Satow took the view that neither Great Britain nor China would be debarred by the wording of Article III of the Chinese draft from obtaining the concessions enumerated in Article IX (d) of the Thibet Convention, and he agrees that, in view of the assurances given by Lord Lansdowne to M. Sazonoff, it is desirable that the terms of the Article should be so amended as to make clear what is conceived to be the intention of the Chinese draft—viz., that the concessions in question are denied to any other State, or to the subjects of any other State but China.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[4839]

No. 27.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir E. Satow.

(No. 20.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, February 12, 1906.

I HAVE received your telegrams Nos. 8 and 12 of the 11th and 25th January, respecting the draft Adhesion Convention handed to you by Tang-shao-yi on the 10th January.

His Majesty's Government concur that a good opportunity for a settlement is afforded by the spontaneous action of the Chinese Government, and think that Peking should be the scene of the negotiations.

If, as you anticipate, the Chinese Government would object to the proposal, you need not press for the introduction of a preface to Article II, as suggested in the telegram of the 23rd January from the Government of India. The draft proposed to Tang contained no such stipulation ; but, if you see a reasonable prospect of success,

you might sound the Chinese Government on the subject of the definite exclusion of the Dalai Lama from Thibet.

The Government of India forwarded to you on the 18th January a record of the negotiations with Tang.

His Majesty's Government see, subject to an exchange of notes in the sense of Article V of the Indian draft, no objection to the acceptance of the Chinese draft, with the verbal amendments which you have suggested, including the omission of the words "by arrangement with China" in Article III. But, as you point out, the British Government are not excluded as a Contracting Party by Article III as drafted, and, in order to make it clear that, as in Article VI of the Indian draft, the concessions enumerated in Article IX (d) of the Thibet Convention are denied to any State and its subjects except China, an amendment is necessary.

See the despatch of the 27th September, 1904, to St. Petersburg in the Thibet print, which shows that the article as drafted does not bear out the assurances given to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires by Lord Lansdowne.

[5418]

No. 28.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir E. Satow.

(No. 24.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, February 16, 1906.

ON the 26th December, the Nepalese Agent at Shigatse stated that the Dalai Lama was expected at Lhasa in July, and that he was then at Nagchuka, in Thibet.

Can you inform us of his whereabouts at present?

[5809]

No. 29.

Sir E. Satow to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 23.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, February 17, 1906.

THIBET: Whereabouts of Dalai Lama.

In reply to your telegram No. 24 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to report that, according to statements made to me a few days ago by the Wai-wu Pu, Dalai Lama is still at place where I reported him in my telegram No. 181 of the 6th October, 1905, to be.

[6242]

No. 30.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 20.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copies of telegrams relative to the affairs of Thibet.

India Office, February 19, 1906.

Inclosure 1 in No. 30.

Mr. Morley to the Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, February 16, 1906.

YOUR telegram of the 23rd ultimo, regarding Thibet negotiations.

Following is summary of instructions sent to Satow on the 12th instant:—

(1) That Peking is to be place of negotiations; (2) that there is no objection to acceptance of Chinese draft, subject to verbal amendments suggested by him including omission of words "by arrangement with China" in Article III, and subject also to exchange of notes in the sense of Article V of draft originally proposed by you; (3) that amendment should be made in Article III so as to make it clear (as Article IV of your draft did) that concessions named in Article IX (d) of Thibet

Convention are denied to any State, and to subjects of any State, except China (see Lord Lansdowne's despatch to Ambassador at St. Petersburg, No. 344, of the 27th September, 1904, as to assurances given to Russian Government on this point); (4) that, if objection on part of Chinese Government is anticipated, introduction in Article II of words suggested by you need not be pressed; but if Satow sees reasonable prospect of success, he is to sound Chinese Government on question of definite exclusion of Dalai Lama from Thibet.

Inclosure 2 in No. 30.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

February 17, 1906.

YOUR telegram of the 31st ultimo. Thibet.

Trade Agent, Gyantse, has reported receipt on the 4th instant of a letter from Lhasa to the effect that, under orders from Emperor of China, Sechung Shape is being deputed to Calcutta in order to pay first instalment of indemnity. On the 14th, Trade Agent was informed by Shape, who had arrived Gyantse the previous day, that he had orders from Amban to receive amount of indemnity from Tang at Calcutta, and to pay Government of India there; these orders, he said, were based on Chinese telegram forwarded to (?) Gyantse a month before.

Trade Agent, in accordance with our instructions, informed Shape that we held Thibetans responsible for payment, and that this should be made at Gyantse, as already notified. In reply, Shape asked that payment might be accepted at Calcutta, saying that his orders were peremptory. Trade Agent believes that if we refuse to accept payment at Calcutta Shape will be ordered to proceed to Calcutta to get money from Chang, and to take it back to Gyantse for payment. Shape is now at Gyantse awaiting receipt of further orders, for which he is understood to have referred to Lhasa.

(Repeated to Peking.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 30.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

February 18, 1906.

YOUR telegram of the 16th and mine of the 17th instant. Thibet.

We would raise no objection to receiving first instalment of indemnity from Shape at Calcutta, provided Chinese Government are prepared to accept Adhesion Convention in form finally settled by His Majesty's Government; indeed, payment by Shape would be preferable to payment direct by Chang. If, however, the Chinese Government refuse to agree to Convention, or if settlement is likely to be delayed, we would not allow payment to be made at Calcutta by Shape, although we would not prevent his coming here to get the money; but he would make his own arrangements, and come as a private individual; and payment would have to be made as already arranged at Gyantse, unless Convention is settled.

Chinese Government had been informed, or were aware, that His Majesty's Government had required instalment to be paid at Gyantse; their action, therefore, in directing Shape to pay at Calcutta was not quite correct; and this may be of assistance to Satow in securing assent of China to points which His Majesty's Government have sanctioned.

(Repeated to Peking.)

Inclosure 4 in No. 30.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

February 18, 1906.

MY telegram of to-day's date. Thibet.

Sechung Shape is reported by Trade Agent to have said that he will leave Gyantse on the 19th. Trade Agent, pending receipt of instructions, will do his best

to detain him. It will be convenient if your instructions as to how Shape is to be treated could issue before he can reach Phari, to which point Political Officer, Chumbi, will be directed to proceed, in order to insure that, while Shape is treated courteously, there is to be no impressment of carriage without payment, as this would be contrary to our agreements with the Chumbi Valley people.

[6397]

No. 31.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 22.)

WITH reference to this Office letter of the 19th instant, the Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 21st February, relative to Thibet affairs.

India Office, February 21, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

February 21, 1906.

MY telegram of the 18th instant: Thibet.

According to a telegram dated the 19th instant from Trade Agent at Gyantse, Shape is expected to arrive at Phari on the 23rd; he intended leaving Gyantse on the 20th.

[7179]

No. 32.

Question asked in the House of Commons, February 22, 1906.

Mr. Norman,—To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he can give any information regarding the state of the negotiations between the British and Chinese Governments in the matter of the Thibetan Treaty.

Answer.

Negotiations are at present proceeding with the Chinese Government in regard to the terms of a Convention for the adhesion of China to the Convention concluded with Thibet in 1904, but there is no intention of altering the terms of the latter Convention.

[6659]

No. 33.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir E. Satow.

(No. 32.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, February 23, 1906.

THIBET indemnity.

Cannot you hasten the adhesion of China to the Thibet Convention, by making use of the difficulty referred to in the India Office telegram to the Viceroy of the 22nd instant, with regard to accepting instalment of the Thibetan indemnity from Shape at Calcutta?

[6659]

No. 34.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 24.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a paraphrase of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 22nd February, relative to the payment of the Thibet indemnity.

India Office, February 23, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 34.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

February 22, 1906.

THIBET: Your telegrams of the 17th and 18th instant.

As regards payment of indemnity, His Majesty's Government agree that payment may be accepted from Shape at Calcutta, if China accepts Adhesion Convention, but does not thereafter pay direct; at the same time, direct payment by China could not be refused by us after Adhesion Convention had been concluded. If Shape tenders payment at Calcutta without arrangement with China having been effected, you should report the fact and await instructions from His Majesty's Government.

His Majesty's Government agree that Shape in his journey to Calcutta should be treated courteously, and that all reasonable facilities, including such as are necessary for his arrangements for receiving money from Chang, should be afforded to him, but that he should not be recognized as having an official mission. In Chumbi Valley, while maintaining principle that villagers must be paid for transport supplied, arrangements should be made so as to prevent Shape being detained on that account.

The above telegram should be repeated to His Majesty's Minister at Peking, who is being asked, in a telegram from Foreign Office, whether, with a view to hastening adhesion of China, the difficulty in regard to accepting instalment of indemnity from Shape at Calcutta could not be made use of by him.

[7026]

No. 35.

Sir E. Satow to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received February 24.)

(No. 30.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, February 24, 1906.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 20 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to report that I have carefully sounded the Chinese Government, and am of opinion that pressure could not be brought upon them for the definite exclusion of the Dalai Lama from Thibet with any reasonable prospect of success. Last year two Decrees were issued ordering him to return to Lhasa, the second of which was intended to prevent intrigues and was promulgated subsequent to an interview which took place in June last at Urga between my Russian colleague, M. Pokotilow, and the Lama himself. It would not be easy for the Chinese Government to cancel these two Decrees. Moreover, the finding of a suitable place of abode for the Lama, who is little over forty years of age, would present great difficulties, were his exclusion from Thibet to be permanent. Information has reached me to the effect that he is not desirous of returning to Lhasa at present, as he is too much afraid of our people and the designs which he believes them to have on his life. It is, I think, also unlikely that the Chinese Government will take any steps to hasten his return.

As regards the preface to Article II of the suggested Agreement, there is no doubt in my mind that objections would be raised to the second clause, and as the proviso in the first clause is already covered by the terms of Article I, I submit that it would be better not to press for it at all.

If, as I presume, a preamble is considered necessary, I venture to suggest that it should either be left to me to settle here, or be drawn up in as short and colourless terms as possible.

[7412]

No. 36.

Question asked in the House of Commons, February 26, 1906.

Sir Henry Cotton,—To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he can inform the House of the present condition of the negotiations between the Government of India and the Government of China regarding the confirmation or modification of the Agreement concluded in August 1904 at Lhasa with the Thibetan authorities; and whether he is in a position to lay papers on the subject before the House.

Answer.

As was stated on Thursday last, negotiations are proceeding between His Majesty's Government and the Chinese Government in regard to the terms of a Convention for the adhesion of China to the Convention concluded with Thibet in 1904.

No statement can be made, and papers cannot be presented during the progress of the negotiations.

[7026]

No. 37.

Foreign Office to India Office.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 27, 1906.

WITH reference to your letter of the 23rd instant and to previous correspondence respecting the Thibetan negotiations with China, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India in Council, copy of a further telegram from His Majesty's Minister at Peking on the subject.*

It will be observed that Sir E. Satow has come to the conclusion that the definite exclusion of the Dalai Lama from Thibet could not be urged with reasonable prospect of success, and that he is of opinion that it would be best not to press for any portion of the prefix to Article II suggested in the telegram from the Government of India of the 23rd ultimo.

Sir E. Grey proposes to inform Sir E. Satow that he need make no suggestion in regard to the Dalai Lama, and to approve his proposal in regard to the prefix to Article II.

It would be in accordance with the usual practice that a preamble should be inserted in the Convention, and, subject to Mr. Morley's concurrence, it is proposed to leave the terms to Sir E. Satow.

I am, &c.

(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

[7197]

No. 38.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 28.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 25th January, relative to the proposals arising out of Mr. Sherring's Report on his visit to Western Thibet.

India Office, February 27, 1906.

Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

Mr. E. F. L. Winter to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Naini Tal, October 13, 1905.

IN continuation of this Government's letter, dated the 26th ultimo, forwarding the Report by Mr. C. A. Sherring, Deputy Commissioner of Almora, on his visit to Western Thibet, I am desirous to say that Mr. Sherring's visit to Thibet has been most successful. Friendly relations have been established, and the result as affecting the prospect of trade is highly satisfactory. Mr. Sherring while maintaining his own dignity was able to gain the confidence of the people by courtesy and kindness, and the officials of this part of Western Thibet are apparently prepared to encourage freedom of trade in the country.

2. To promote this intercourse, and to encourage the Thibetans in their present attitude, the following measures appear to the Lieutenant-Governor to be necessary:—

(1.) The construction of the road from Tanakpur to the Lipu Lekh Pass, estimated by Mr. Watts to cost 5 lakhs. The worst portion of the road is from Khela to Garbyang, 28 miles, and is estimated to cost 1,62,000 rupees and should be first taken in hand. If the Government of India will sanction a grant for this purpose no delay will occur in starting this essential work.

(2.) The abolition of the dues collected from the residents in British territory. These are in part collected by the Political Peshkar for the Thibetans, and amount to about 3,000 rupees a-year. They are a perquisite of the local Thibetan officials. It is recommended that in their stead a grant be made to these officials for repairs of roads in Thibet. The repair would mean little more than removal of loose stones. The grant might be 5,000 rupees a-year for ten years.

(3.) The appointment of Kharag Singh Pal, now Tahsildar of Almora, as a second trade agent, for the important marts near Taklakot.

(4.) The prevention of sportsmen going into Thibet merely to kill game.

(5.) The opening of a post-office at Taklakot 8 miles across the border and 25 miles from Garbyang post-office.

(6.) The building of a house for Thakur Jai Chand at Gargunsa, four marches from Gartok, as recommended by Mr. Sherring in paragraph 29 of his Report.

I am to add that, in the opinion of his Honour, measures (1) and (2) are the most important at present.

Memorandum.

The papers specified in the margin* were transmitted to the Secretary, Political and Secret Department, India Office, London, for the information of His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, under cover of the Foreign Secretary's letter, dated the 19th October, 1905.

Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

British Trade Agent at Gartok to Government of India.

(Extract.)

October 8, 1905.

I DESIRE to go to Simla for the purpose of settling the following points. . . . Secondly, the taxes levied in Thibet on the people of the Garhwal and Almora districts are of two kinds: one class of taxes is levied by order of the Thibetan Government, and another class of taxes is levied by the Zongpons on their own initiative without orders of the Government of Thibet.

* Report on a visit of Mr. C. A. Sherring, Deputy Commissioner of Almora, to Western Thibet; letter from the Government of the United Provinces dated the 26th September, 1905, with inclosure.

Inclosure 3 in No. 38.

Government of India to Thakur Jai Chand, British Trade Agent at Gartok.

November 1, 1905.

YOU should report more fully your views as to the duties now levied on the people of the Garhwal and Almora districts, and how you would propose to get rid of this.

Inclosure 4 in No. 38.

Mr. J. C. White to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Gangtok, October 25, 1905.

WITH reference to Mr. C. A. Sherring's Report on his visit to Western Thibet, forwarded with your indorsement dated the 14th October, 1905, I have the honour to state, with his reference to his remarks in paragraphs 13 and 29 (7), that this religious endowment with Darchan as its head-quarters belongs to Bhutan and not to Sikkim. I will speak to Sir Ugyen Wangchuk when he comes to Calcutta about the matter, and ask him to instruct the "dashok" and other Bhutanese officials there to assist British subjects in every way, and will also obtain from him further information regarding this endowment.

2. With reference to paragraph 29 (2) of the Report, I am very strongly in favour of opening out Thibet to *bond fide* travelling, and agree with Mr. Sherring that passes should not be issued for only "shikar" purposes, but that every facility should be given to travellers, as the more the Thibetans come into contact with Europeans the better. Other nations will encourage their subjects to travel in Thibet, as instanced by the Comte de Lesdain and his wife's journey across China, Mongolia, and Eastern Thibet, and it has been notified that Mr. Sven Hedin intends again to explore Thibet. We should not be left behind and allow the Thibetans to become more familiar with foreigners than with British subjects, European and native.

Inclosure 5 in No. 38.

Government of India to Mr. E. F. L. Winter.

Sir,

Fort William, January 22, 1906.

I AM directed to reply to your letter dated the 13th October, 1905, forwarding a report by Mr. Sherring on the subject of the journey recently made by him in Thibetan territory, under the orders of the Government of India.

2. Mr. Sherring was instructed, on the conclusion of his journey, to submit a report on the following points for the information of the Government of India :—

(1.) Whether on general grounds it is advisable that traders should be encouraged to travel by the direct route from Almora to Gyantse.

(2.) What are the existing obstacles to the development of trade with Taklakot, Gyanema, and Gortok, how can these be removed, and how could Taklakot, best be opened to trade without recourse being had to a formal Agreement.

(3.) The nature of the difficulties which at present hinder pilgrimage to Mansarowar and Kailas, and the best way of removing them and of encouraging the pilgrim traffic.

3. With regard to (1), Mr. Sherring states, in paragraph 29 of his Report, that the Thibetans have no objection whatever to our traders visiting Gyantse, and he recommends that the Government of India should similarly raise no objection. In view of the fact that Mr. Sherring himself reported in paragraph 2 of his letter dated the 22nd April, 1905, that Pandit Gobaria Bhotia of Garbyang told him that, in former times, he always used to go to Gyantse by the Taklakot route, but that for some years past the Taklakot authorities had stopped traders from going; the Government of India would have been glad to receive more explicit information on the subject from Mr. Sherring.

I am to request that, if any further complaints are received from traders to the effect that they are not permitted to proceed to Gyantse by this route, a report on the subject may be submitted to the Government of India.

4. With regard to (2), I am to say that the Government of India learn with satisfaction that, as a result of Mr. Sherring's intercourse with the local officials, the latter are apparently prepared to encourage British trade in their part of the country.

5. Mr. Sherring was asked, with reference to the question of trade with Taklakot and Gyanema, to report on the subject of the dues levied by the Thibetans on the Bhotias trading at these places. The remarks submitted by Mr. Sherring on this question do not, in the opinion of the Government of India, throw much new light on the matter, nor do they provide the material for arriving at a decision.

It appears that the dues now levied are of three kinds, namely :—

(1.) Payments made to British officials and transferred by them to the Thibetan authorities.

(2.) Payments made direct to the Thibetan authorities by traders crossing certain passes leading into Thibet.

(3.) Dues payable by certain traders direct to the Thibetan authorities at certain marts.

I am to request that the Government of India may be informed what the payments under head (1) are held to represent, how they are collected, what their annual amount is, and to what Thibetan official they are made over.

With regard to the payments made under head (2), it should be reported what the estimated annual total of the payments is, who the officials are who benefit by the imposts, at what passes they are collected, and whether all these passes lie on routes which can properly said to lead to the Treaty Mart at Gartok, and in respect of which we can indisputably claim the right of free passage.

With regard to the payments made under head (3), the Government of India desire to know the marts at which the cesses are levied, the amounts which are believed to be realized annually at each centre, and the designations of the officials who enjoy the proceeds.

6. Mr. Sherring was asked, in the third place, to report on the subject of pilgrimage to Mansarowar and Kailas.

He states in paragraph 13 of his Report that Darchan is the head-quarters of the pilgrim traffic to Kailas, and that the Ruler of this place, who is called "dashok," is in charge of the principal monasteries round the holy mountain, and also of some on the Mansarowar Lake. He states that all these possessions form a religious endowment given by the Thibetan Government to the Sikkim Raj, and that the "dashok" is appointed from Sikkim. The political officer in Sikkim, who has been consulted on the subject, has reported that the religious endowment in question belongs to Bhutan, and not to Sikkim. A reference will be made on the subject to the Bhutan Durbar, in order to ascertain the exact nature of the connection of the Bhutanese Government with these places of pilgrimage, and with a view to facilitate the journeys of pilgrims to the localities.

7. The Government of India have noted Mr. Sherring's remarks with regard to the assistance which he received in the course of his journey from Pandit Gobaria. The points brought to notice in clauses (1), (2), (4), (5), and (6) of Mr. Sherring's Report are being dealt with separately by the Government of India.

8. With regard to the recommendation of the United Provinces Government that Kharag Singh Pal, now Tahsildar of Almora, should be appointed as a second trade agent for the marts at Taklakot, I am to say that no such appointment could be made without the consent of the Lhasa Government to the constitution of new trade marts under Article II of the Treaty, and it is not considered desirable at present to take any steps in the matter.

9. Finally, I am to say that the Government of India concur in his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor's commendation of Mr. Sherring's work.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

R. E. HOLLAND,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

[7205]

No. 39.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 28.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 28th December, 1905, relative to the future administration of the Chumbi Valley.

India Office, February 27, 1906.

Inclosure 1 in No. 39.

Mr. Bell to Political Agent, Sikkim.

Chumbi, November 17, 1905.

AS I am shortly leaving Chumbi, it seems desirable to put on record those principles which should in my opinion govern our future administration of the Chumbi Valley. Owing to the intimacy engendered by over a year's residence among these people, they have told me from time to time a good deal of their past history, and their hopes and fears for the future.

2. The importance of keeping the inhabitants of the Chumbi Valley contented is sufficiently obvious, since they constitute that portion of our subjects that is brought most into contact with the Government and the people of the remainder of Thibet. I have seen several instances of the way in which the leading officials and people of Thibet are comparing our system of administration with their own.

3. We do not need to bribe them with presents or other unnatural advantages, for such paid loyalty deceives nobody, certainly not the Thibetans, but we must give them a just and comfortable Government.

4. Our presence here entails certain advantages and certain disadvantages on the people. I will note the disadvantages first :—

(a.) Their trade monopoly is being gradually undermined. Before our occupation nobody was allowed to pass Yatung for trade without a passport ("lam-yik"), and such passports were, as a rule, given only to the Tromowas, i.e., the inhabitants of the Chumbi Valley proper. The chief reasons for this were that the Tromowas sent large bribes to Lhasa in order to retain this privilege, and that the Thibetan Government wished in any case to keep their subjects on this frontier contented, in order to prevent them from desiring to come under British rule. The privilege was a very valuable one, and has raised the better classes of the Tromowas to a standard of comfort to which they were absolute strangers fifteen years ago.

(b.) The second matter which causes the people trouble is their fear of the treatment they will receive from the Thibetan Government when restored to its control. Their fear is a very real one, as the people of the Chumbi Valley are serving us with the utmost heartiness and good-will, and are showing in various ways their wish to remain under our administration. The Thibetan Government, judging by past events, are not likely to forgive such service easily.

5. The advantages which the people gain from our occupation are as follow :—

(a.) Protection from Bhutanese raiders. The subjects of the Pa-ro Penlop in Western Bhutan have long enjoyed an unenviable reputation for raiding, and the people of Ha-the district of Western Bhutan, which adjoins the Chumbi Valley, are usually regarded as the worst offenders of them all. Without going at length into this matter, it is sufficient to say that the only protection of the people rested on an agreement which they made five years ago with the Bhutan Darbar, through the medium of the Tongsa Penlop, a translation of which is given in Appendix I. The Agreement did not work very well; the raiding ceased for a short time, but began again.

(b.) The second advantage is the removal of the customs duties at Phari. In my F.C.R. 8, dated the 7th February, 1905, I reported in detail what duties were being levied, and in that and subsequent F.C.R.'s I reported the steps which I took

for their removal. The trade has now been free of all the customs duties for several months. The gain to the merchants is not less than three-quarters of a lakh of rupees annually, and is helping to stimulate the whole trade on this the chief trade route between India and Thibet.

(c.) The third advantage gained by the people from our occupation is in their Government revenue. They now pay a reasonably light demand in the manner most convenient to them, instead of the onerous taxes of supply and transport ("tau" and "ula") which they formerly had to pay to Chinese and Thibetan officials.

(d.) The fourth advantage consists in being allowed to manage their own affairs through their own Headmen, with the right of appeal against their Headmen in certain cases to the Assistant Political Agent here. It is a matter of common knowledge that village Headmen are much less prone to take bribes and otherwise oppress their villagers than outside officials like the Yatung Chi-kya, the Phari Jongpens, and the Tromo Ta-shös. The people here, as is the case with all Thibetans, are accustomed to an oligarchial rather than to an autocratic form of rule, as is shown by the great influence of the National Assembly ("Tson-olu Gyandzom") at Lhasa, by the practical independence of many of the States in Kam and other places, and by the village assemblies in Tromo, Phari, and elsewhere in Thibet. And the oligarchy is not a narrow one, since a large number of the people, in their own spheres, take part to some extent in the administration. The power of the village communities is, in fact, far greater than in those parts of India, at any rate (Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa), with which I am acquainted. The permission to manage their own affairs subject to control is therefore appreciated by the people.

(e.) Fifthly, we protect them from harassment by the military and our own underlings.

6. Such are the advantages which our occupation has conferred on the people. We have protected them from the Bhutanese; we have removed the taxes on trade; we have given them a light and conveniently arranged revenue; and we have conferred on them a much better system of administration than that to which they were subjected by the Thibetan Government. That the advantages outweigh the disadvantages can, perhaps, be understood only by those who have resided here, and have had opportunities of seeing the contentment of the people. If further proof were needed it would be found in the fact that a few months ago the people wished to petition our Government to be permanently annexed, but were afraid to do so in case the petition should not be granted, in which case the Thibetan Government would oppress them very greatly when their country is returned to Thibet.

7. The future policy which we should follow in the Chumbi Valley area I conceive to be as follows :—

(a.) We must maintain unimpaired the advantages specified in paragraph 5 above. They are all valuable assets on our side in reconciling the people to British rule.

(b.) The breaking down of the trade monopoly of the Tromowas, mentioned in paragraph 4 (a) above, is unavoidable. The general interests of the trade demand it. And it should be noted that the monopoly is of recent growth, being due to the Sikkim Expedition of 1888, which first established a large Thibetan trade at Kalimpong. The advent of outside traders does also benefit the poorer classes in the valley by increasing the demand for labour.

(c.) As regards paragraph 4 (b) it would be essential for us, when the Chumbi Valley is returned to the Thibetan Government, to retain power to prevent the Thibetan Government from oppressing these people for their services to us. Unless we do this our good name will suffer greatly. This point, however, does not arise at present.

(d.) The Am-mo Chu road should be constructed, if funds permit. I have already reported fully on this matter in my 54, dated the 21st April, 1905, to the address of the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, and need not recapitulate here the arguments contained in that letter.

(e.) The Chinese Customs Station at Yatung should be abolished, if this can be arranged with Sir Robert Hart. The desirability of this change is, I think, fully understood by Government, so I will merely note the fact here.

(f.) The Chinese Colonel ("Tungling"), and his soldiers, also the Chinese Civil Officer ("Po-pön") and his police ("Yung"), should be removed, if this can be arranged. The desirability of this change also is, I think, fully understood by Government.

(g.) The Trade Examination Station at Pedong, 12 miles from Kalimpong, on the way to Chumbi, should be abolished. At present every package is opened at Pedong. The traders themselves necessarily live at Kalimpong, where the wool is baled, and all goods are changed from mules to carts and *vice versa*. The examination is therefore conducted in the presence of the traders' servants, and the traders are subjected to loss from the thefts of their servants, from careless repacking of their goods, and from the harassments attendant on such examinations when conducted by subordinates. The examination cannot prevent the passage of contraband articles, since nothing is easier than to pass by night, to go round through the fields, or to avoid Pedong altogether by taking any of the following routes—namely, Ri-kyi-sum, Ka-gye, and Ling-se; or La-va, Ri-chi La, and Ling-tu; or any of the tracks through Bhutan. The work of the Trade Examination Station, as well as that of the Chinese Customs Office at Yatung, should be transferred to a single office at Chumbi. Chumbi is the head-quarters of the Chumbi Valley area, and is 3 miles above the junction of the roads to Kalimpong and Gangtok, as well as of the road down the Am-mo Chu Valley, should this last be made.

Memorandum by Mr. Bell.

Copy submitted to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

Chumbi, November 17, 1905.

Inclosure 2 in No. 39.

Agreement between Bhutan and the Chumbi Valley as to the prevention of Robberies from being committed by the people of the one country on the people of the other.

Now—As in this degenerate time many bad people of Ha, Paro, Chö-ding, Sö-ling under the Bhutanese Government and Tromo and Phari under the Gan-den (Thibetan) Government, are not abiding by the laws of the respective kingdoms, and consequently there are many thieves and robbers at present, and representations having been received that such may not happen again, and Gyak-pön Lo-trö Gye-tsen, a representative of the Phari Jongpen, and representatives from Phari and Tromo, viz., Kar-tsok Tse-ring Ten-dup of Phari, Gya-tso A-puk of Upper Tromo, and Kongdu Gye-po Tse-ring of Lower Tromo, having arrived in Bhutan, the Ruler and Nobles of Bhutan also make this permanent arrangement, so that there may be no ill-feeling, but always good between the kingdoms.

1st Condition.—Nobody of Ha, Paro, Chö-ding, and Sö-ling must steal property, ponies, mules, yaks, and even cloth and thread of the people between Ka-la and A-sam in Lower Tromo as before; moreover, they must not break the laws of the land, nor do any oppression. Orders have been issued to the Chiefs of Ha, Chö-ding, and Sö-ling to notify this to the raiyats, and the raiyats of Paro and Thibet must also observe this.

2nd Condition.—If any evildoer, not obeying the above condition, commits any robbery, and if the thief can be caught anywhere, the complainant must prove the case, and the trial must be conducted and the punishment inflicted in the presence of the Representatives from both Governments, and the property stolen must be restored.

3rd Condition.—If any robber tries to assault his pursuers, and if the robber be killed by either the Thibetans or Bhutanese, 75 ngü-sang (rupees 166 : 11) must be paid as blood-money. If the Thibetans are to pay it, it will be paid by the Phari Jongpen, through the Rim-pung Tsong-pön (the agent of the Paro Penlop) to the Bhutanese Government, and if the Bhutanese are to pay it, it will be paid through the Rim-pung Tsong-pön to the Phari Jongpen, and not even a word should be said about the killing of such robbers (*i.e.*, no further claim will arise in respect of such killing).

4th Condition.—If the owner of the property stolen pursue the thief, and the thief kills either the owner of the property or his friends, the thief, if caught, will be bound and thrown into the river with the dead body of the person thus killed,

and if the thief cannot be caught, 300 ngü-sang (rupees 666 : 12) must be paid as blood-money without any protest. Regarding the second condition of paying blood-money if anybody is killed without committing any theft or robbery, Representatives from both Governments will inquire and settle the bloody-money.

5th Condition.—As the boundaries of Phari, Tromo, and Ha adjoin each other, the Tromowas can travel in Ha as before, and the grazing fees payable to the Pharipas must be paid as before; and if the fees are not paid, no protest can be made if they let their grazing to others.

6th Condition.—The land rent of the houses built in Phari must be paid as before, and no evil man shall be allowed to withhold this rent.

7th Condition.—If any Bhutanese trader goes to Phari or Tromo, no one must trouble him unnecessarily; and if any Thibetan trader comes into Bhutan, nobody must trouble him unnecessarily. Everybody must help each other.

The above seven conditions have been made for the good of both the Gan-den (*i.e.*, Thibetan) and Bhutanese Governments, and all evil-minded people are forbidden to act as before, but must abide by these conditions for ever. Of the six copies of the Agreement this copy is to be kept by the community of Rinchengong in Lower Tromo.

Sealed by the Ruler and Nobles of Bhutan on a date of the 8th month of the Iron-mouse year (*i.e.*, September, October 1900).

(Seal of Deb Raja.)
(Seal of Tongsa Penlop.)
(Seal of Pa-ro Penlop.)

[7627]

No. 40.

Question asked in the House of Commons, March 1, 1906.

Sir Henry Cotton.—To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs how long negotiations have been proceeding between His Majesty's Government and the Chinese Government in regard to the Thibet Convention of 1904; where these negotiations are now being carried on; whether special officers or Plenipotentiaries have been appointed by the respective Governments concerned to conduct the negotiations, and, if so, what are the names and official designations of these officers; and whether it is possible to inform the House when these negotiations are likely to be concluded.

Answer.

Negotiations for the adhesion of China to the Thibet Convention began before the Convention was signed on the 7th September, 1904. They are now proceeding at Peking between His Majesty's Minister and the Foreign Board, but it is not possible to say when they are likely to be concluded.

[8197]

No. 41.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 8.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 1st ultimo, relative to Thibet affairs.

India Office, March 7, 1906.

Inclosure 1 in No. 41.

Major Smith to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Camp viâ Segowlie, December 24, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith translation of a news-letter, together with a Thibetan paper said to have been addressed by the Amba to the Thirring Poche Lama, received by the Prime Minister from the Nepalese Representative at Lhasa.

2. The Prime Minister has requested that the latter paper may be returned when no longer required.

Inclosure 2 in No. 41.

Letter from the Nepalese Representative at Lhasa.

(Translation.)

WITH due respect I beg to submit to your Highness a report of my interview with the Thirring Poche Lama in the following lines:—

On Thursday, the 20th Aswin, while visiting the temple of Bhagwan, I gave a call to the said Lama. After inquiries about health I informed him that I had been to the Kasyal the other day to urge upon the Kazis the necessity of settling the long-standing dispute about the "kharkas" (pasturage) and a plot of land lying on the Nepal-Thibet boundary on the Kerong side, and the case of dakaiti committed on the property of Suba Samdo Bista by the Thibetans, drawing attention of the Kazis to the fact that, although I had times over, both orally and in writing, communicated with them on the subjects, they had put off the matters with promises of early settlement; that to this the Kazis replied that they would now try to have the boundary dispute of the Kerong side settled soon, and in the other case they would call for explanation or reports from the Thibetan officials concerned and pass early orders on them; and that I then expressed to them a hope that they would now, without further delay, do the needful to settle them in a way quite compatible with justice and let me have definite answers.

Having heard all what I had said, the Thirring Poche Lama replied that nothing could ever be expected to be settled or decided by those Kazis, who felt no shame to feign ignorance of facts which they were fully aware of; that they were capable of playing so false even with me, while their sole object was nothing but to have recourse to procrastination, even in such matters which they could have at once settled without in any way deviating from the path of justice; that more specially in matters which concerned their internal affairs their conduct was simply disgusting, because whenever any such case came to them their attention was solely directed towards finding out some means of taking bribes, and to nothing else; that they were so void of conscience that they had no power to distinguish right from wrong and deeds from misdeeds; that, such being the case, the administration of the country could not be expected to go on properly; that it was due to all these that there seemed to be some likelihood of some misunderstanding arising between the Digarcha Lama and them (the Lhasa Government), because some time ago a man named Ridar, of Digarcha, having quarrelled with the Digarcha Lama, had fled away from the place and sought protection of the Potala Lama here; and then, this man having presented in writing a statement to the effect that the Digarcha Lama and his people had been performing charms to bring on the destruction of the Potala Lama and the Bharadars of Lhasa, men were deputed from here to investigate the matter, but in the interval the Potala Lama had to go away towards the north, and so the Digarcha Lama, having confiscated the property of the said Ridar, which was at Digarcha, had written a letter to the Lhasa Government requesting that the man should be surrendered to him, to which the said Government sent back a reply to the effect that, as it was a matter which had come to the notice of the Potala Lama, and which he had expressed a wish to settle by a compromise, they would request the favour of postponement of the confiscation of the man's property, undertaking that the man would not be allowed to go wrong or commit mischief; but, not satisfied with this reply, the Digarcha Lama wrote back, again demanding the surrender of the man, and promising

that the man would not be badly dealt with, but would be shut up in a small "gumba" (monastery), with necessary arrangement for his fooding, &c.; besides, the said Lama at the same time wrote to his men, who were residing here, instructing them to arrest the man and send him on to Digarcha, whereupon the man, getting a scent of it, made good his escape from Lhasa and entered the Sera Gumba; that reports were flying to the effect that there were signs which showed that the Digarcha Lama and his people have joined the British, whose officer, residing at Gyantse—viz., Captain O'Connor—had paid him a visit at Digarcha and gone away towards Ghamba; that now he (Thirring Poche Lama) apprehended that things would not go on satisfactorily in Thibet.

The Lama went on to say that there was a report to the effect that the Potala Lama had with him two Chinese Amba, without whose permission no outsiders were allowed to see him, which he (Thirring Poche Lama) took to mean to be a precaution against any Russian people having an access to the Potala Lama; that as information from the Chinese source indicated that the Potala Lama would be back here soon, the Thibetan Bharadars were making necessary arrangements and preparations for the occasion, although no communication of any kind whatever about his return, or the date of his arrival here, has been received from the said Lama; that as it did not appear that even the Amba had received any direct information from the Emperor of China on the subject, but has simply received letters from the Amba of Silling, he (Thirring Poche Lama) still felt some misgivings in relying on the said communications alone, and so could not be firmly convinced of the news that the Potala Lama was coming back soon; that he was at times inclined to suspect that the Chinese have spread such a report to carry out their own ulterior designs; that with reference to the Agreement for the payment of a lakh of rupees a-year to the British, although the time stipulated has expired, there was not a single talk or discussion as to the manner in which the source from which this payment should be made; that the Thibetans were confident that the Than Tarin Amba, who had [?] to] come to Lhasa, would settle the matter; but when one day, all on a sudden, the British would send a strong letter pressing forward the demand, there was no knowing what the Thibetans would do then, for it would be only then that they would be stirring; that the Thibetans were by nature made such that they never do anything with proper foresight or timely earnestness; on the other hand, when, having allowed matters to drift, it comes to a head, they agree to things which ought not to be agreed to.

The Thirring Poche Lama concluded by saying that, with regard to the said matter relating to Nepal and Thibet, since His Highness the Maharajah of Nepal, in consideration of the two Governments having been united together like brothers, had shown so much forbearance, and as, even in spite of this, the Kazis had talked on that way, I should urge on them again for an early settlement, telling them that I must now send reports on those matters to His Highness. I replied that I have been doing it and would do so again, and, having taken leave of him, returned to my residence.

I also beg to put down here the news which I have heard and been able to gather here for your Highness' information.

Yen, a Chinese clerk, brought to me a paper said to be a copy of a "wangsew" addressed by the Amba to the Thirring Poche Lama, in which it was stated that, as the Than Tarin Amba, who had been deputed by the Chinese Government to negotiate and settle the Anglo-Thibetan Treaty matters with the Bara Lath Saheb of Hindustan, had applied for leave, and in consequence a telegraphic communication, via British India, was received from the Chinese Home Office ("Jyorkhang") by the Amba at Lhasa, intimating the appointment of Tangyin Tang to replace Than Tarin in the said work, and giving instructions as to the procedure to be followed with reference to the payment of the indemnity to the British by the Thibetans, and to appoint a competent Chinese official, if available in Thibet, to watch the interest of China in connection with the establishment of "kothis" by the British, or, if an official who was quite conversant with the commercial business and other matters such as were prevalent in the commercial cities of China, could not be found in Thibet, the Government of China would appoint and send one from China. I beg to send herein the said paper, with a copy of its translation in our vernacular, for your Highness' information. Seopita, who is also a clerk, says that he has heard a report that Than Tarin feigned illness and applied for leave, as he was very much disgusted on account of the Lath Saheb having given no heed at all to any word or suggestion of his.

Dundu Khangsar Kuseo informed me that Captain O'Connor, the British officer stationed at Gyantse, had been for a long time staying at Digarcha, and roamed about hither and thither, sometimes going to the Gumba and sometimes to the bazar. The

informant says that he got this information from his own men who were newcomers from Digarcha.

My brother, whom I had sent to your Highness with some gold and other articles, and who arrived here safely on the 13th Aswin, was telling me that, while at Gyantse on his way to this place, he was invited by the British officer, Captain O'Connor, to see him at his house. Having been asked by the Captain as to whether he was coming from Nepal, my brother replied that he had been to Nepal with some goods intended for your Highness, and has come back to go and join the Nepalese Representative. The Captain then inquired about the health of the Representative, and asked where he had learnt Thibetan. My brother replied that the Representative first got his Thibetan education at Kutu, and subsequently at Lhasa from the Itu Kazi under the patronage of His Highness the present Maharaja's father. Captain O'Connor then informed him that he had got two cases containing pictures intended for me, and asked whether my said brother would take them on to Lhasa with him, and on my brother replying that, as he had neither heard anything on the subject from the Representative, nor had he got any spare transport to carry the cases, he would beg to be excused, but would gladly carry the message to the Representative who would then send men down for the purpose. The Captain agreed to this suggestion, and asked my brother to convey his message about the pictures with his compliments to me, and at the same time sent a small box containing some toys for my daughter, which I duly received. Shall I send men to get those pictures up?

With a view to provide a palki for the conveyance of the Potala Lama from Nakchewkha to Lhasa, the Kasyal office are at present training some men to carry the palki.

Nechang Duila says that the Kasyal office, on the information having been received from the Chinese about the return of the Potala Lama, has issued an order to repair the road lying between the Fembogola and Nakchewkha, and has also instructed the Nechanga office to collect 4,000 "khals" (a khal is equal to about 16 seers) of wheat to supply provisions for his party on the Nakchewkha side, while some men are also being trained as palki-bearers. As no information of any sort has been received by the Kazis and Bharadars here from the Potala Lama about his return, they are all in doubt whether the Lama would come back to Lhasa soon. Rumour is, however, afloat here that the said Lama has arrived at a place called Chhodani, near the Silleng-Mongolian border.

To-day I again paid a visit to the Thirring Poche Lama with some presents on the occasion of our Dasain festivity. After exchange of compliments and inquiries about health, I said that, though I have not brought any big presents, I hoped that he would be pleased to accept them, taking them to be only a mark of my affection and regard towards him. The Lama, after expressing thanks and pleasure for the presents and my trouble in bringing with me, inquired whether the "Dasain" pujas were performed and completed in a satisfactory manner, to which I replied that, by the glory of my Government and the blessings of the Lama, everything went off satisfactory. He then gave me, and the officers who accompanied me, some "Prashad" known as "Sundi." When this was over, the Lama told me that he has been informed by the Amba at Lhasa that the Than Tarin Amba, who had come to Calcutta, having fallen ill, has got leave to return home, and that, with reference to the payment of the indemnity by the Thibetans to the British according to the Agreement made at the Potala, if the Thibetans failed to pay the amount within the stipulated time, they would be required to pay the principal due with a fine or interest thereon, and so they would do well if they would arrange to have the money ready, for which he (Thirring Poche) should pass necessary orders on the Kazis; that to this he (Thirring Poche Lama) replied that last year when the British officers wrote twice—once before the Monglan festivity and again during the time the festivity was being held—stating that the Thibetans would derive benefit if they were to send a deputation to the Bara Lath Saheb, he represented the matter to the Amba, who then said that His Majesty the Emperor of China had deputed Than Tarin Amba to Calcutta to negotiate with the Bara Lath Saheb, and to do the needful, while the Chinese Litangay came to assure him, and also the Kasyal Kazis that the Convention made with the British by the late Hintarin Amba would be upheld, nor would the Thibetans have to pay anything by way of indemnity, but that the Thibetan Bharadars would subsequently have to go to the frontier on the Domo side to settle the matter finally; that in consequence it would have been quite improper on their part to do anything contrary-wise, when they have got such assurances from the side of His Majesty the Emperor of China whom they all

regarded as their master; and thus placing full reliance on those assurances, they did not think of or make any efforts to collect the amount, nor could such a large sum be collected quickly in a poor country like Thibet; he (Thirring Poche) hoped that the Amba would continue, as he had been doing before, to be guided in his action by affection and kindness towards Thibet. The Lama went on to say that how one could have now any faith upon the words of the Chinese who, having spoken in the way they had done before, were now so inconsistent as to ask whether the amount of the indemnity has or has not been collected, adding at the same time, that, if the sum be not paid within the stipulated time, a fine would also have to be paid; that from inquiry made by the Thibetans, it appeared that His Majesty the Emperor of China, in consideration of the country being so poor, has expressed a wish to assist the Thibetan Government in the payment of the indemnity; that in consequence it appeared that some intermediaries in China, and the Amba at Lhasa were trying to squeeze something out of the Thibetans by withholding the order passed by His Majesty, with a view to create an impression on the minds of the Thibetans that it was owing to their earnest representation that the favour was granted; that if such had been their motive, the Amba at Lhasa could have said so to the Thibetans, informing them of the extent of favour which His Majesty the Emperor had shown, as such a course would have enabled the Thibetans to arrange to do what was necessary; that in a letter received from the British officers sometime ago, they wrote an allegory comparing China with the lightning of the East, Thibet with a rabbit of the West, Russia with the devil-like bear of the North, and the British with the elephant of the South, saying that when the ministers or advisers of the lightning wanted to eat up the rabbit, the latter sought the protection of the devil, but finding no shelter with him, the elephant of the South, taking compassion on the poor rabbit, proffered him good advice, who, however, went on keeping away at a distance without giving heed to the words of advice given for their own good; that of this they have an example here, because even when the Emperor of China was pleased to show some favour to them (the Thibetans), it was those ministers or advisers of his who spoilt the business in that way; that it was because the Thibetans look to so many sides for support, and hold different views among themselves that they spoil their business; that if they had followed the advice which he had given to them last year, everything would have been settled by this time, and all would have their peace of mind; that now, after they had been all along clinging to the hope that everything would be done and settled by the Chinese, to be told so by the Chinese, Amba was rather strange; that even now he was inclined to believe that it would be better to tell the Amba that, since they had his assurance as stated above they have not collected any money, nor has the Thibetan Government any means to pay such a large amount at once, so their master, the Government of China, should show what favour they might be pleased towards Thibet, or if not, as the Amba at Lhasa had promised before that, if the matter could not be settled by the month of Kartik, he would make a representation to His Majesty the Emperor of China, and do the needful; he should do so now, and then send a representative of his to accompany the deputation from Thibet to see the Bara Lath Saheb at Calcutta, to whom the Thibetans would, after stating the whole facts of the case as it stood up-to-date, say to the Lath Saheb that last year, as the Chinese were negotiating in the matter, they did not think it advisable to interfere then, and have come now, as the Chinese have failed to settle the matter, to represent to him their difficulties, and the points mentioned in the last Agreement which they would not be able to carry out, explaining that last year when the British officers were at Lhasa an Agreement was forced upon them which they could not but give their consent to at the time for fear, lest, if they did not do that, it would still further strain the relations between the two Governments, and bring on utter ruin to the country and the destruction of its people; but as there was in the expression that a firm friendship should be maintained between the two Governments, they maintained a hope that the British, with a view to attain this object, would remove the difficulties before them, and then lay before him (Lath Saheb) some suggestion by which all the difficulties and troubles would be removed, and proposed that any communication which the Bara Lath Saheb might wish to send might be sent direct to them, and they, too, would do the same, all of which would tend to bring about an amicable relation between the two Governments; and that, after having said so to the Amba if they could give effect to the above proposal and visit Calcutta during the coming winter; it was expected to be beneficial to them. The Lama then having concluded after expressing his doubts as to the course future events would take, I told him that I hoped that they would

know what is the best course to be adopted for the good of Thibet, and should endeavour to remain in friendship with all concerned.

After this I inquired what was the news about the Potala Lama. The Thirring Poche Lama replied that information having been received from the Chinese authorities that the Potala Lama was returning to Lhasa, preparations were going on for the occasion, but he has some doubts that the Potala Lama was in difficulties, because, after some Russians had paid a visit to him and offered him some presents, suspicion was roused on all sides that has caused the Chinese Government to place restrictions upon him; that it appeared that the British have great influence also in China, because when Than Tarin Amba came to Calcutta having been deputed by the Chinese Government, he took a firm stand in the negotiation, but subsequently as the British gave no heed to his words and became quite indifferent to him, he had to feign illness and go away, while at the same time the Amba at Lhasa had to change his tone and ask for the collection of the indemnity money, threatening that a fine would be imposed if it is not paid in time; besides, it appeared that it was because pressure was brought on the Chinese by the British that the former put restrictions on the Potala Lama.

I then said that I had heard that nine men dressed with underclothings of the European fashion and European shoes have appeared on the Nakchewkha side, and inquired if the news was correct. The Lama replied in the affirmative, and added that of the nine one was a woman, but they all were stopped by the Jhompon of Nakchewkha, who referred the matter here for orders; that to this the Kasyal sent a reply, ordering that those men should not be allowed to proceed and should be sent back, but, before the reply could reach him, the men had returned towards the north, and reports were subsequently received that they travelled from Yangwachen to Digarcha, and have gone down to India via Gyantse, which indicated that they were British people. After this I took leave of the Lama and returned to my residence.

Dated the 31st Aswin, Monday, 1962, corresponding to the 16th October, 1905.

Inclosure 3 in No. 41.

Major Smith to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Camp via Segowlie, December 27, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to send herewith translation of a letter from the Nepalese Representative at Lhasa, together with the Thibetan papers said to be copies of the wangsews mentioned in the Representative's letter, and to request that the wangsews may be returned to me when done with.

Inclosure 4 in No. 41.

Letter from the Nepalese Representative at Lhasa.

(Translation.)

WITH due respect I beg to lay before your Highness in the following lines the news that I have heard and been able to gather here for your Highness's information.

Inclosed herein I beg to send some Thibetan papers brought to me by a Chinese clerk, of which one is said to be a copy of a wangsew (Memorandum) addressed by the Amba at Lhasa to the Chinese officials of a place called Hor in Chinese territory, on the subject of the return of the Potala Lama to Lhasa; and another, a copy of a Memorandum addressed by the said Amba to the Thirring Poche Lama, together with a copy of a list showing the number of horses, transport, camels, tents, and dāk-runners considered to be necessary for use during the return journey of the Potala Lama to Lhasa. These papers will speak for themselves.

Among the men mentioned in the said list there appear to be some names which sound like those of the people of Mongolia.

A few of the common people have even given out as a rumour that there are many Russian people with the Potala Lama.

I also beg to inclose two other Thibetan papers said to be copies of a Memorandum addressed by the Amba at Lhasa to the Thirring Poche Lama, on the subject of the representation made by the whole community of temporal monks to the Amba for the reinstatement of the Potala Lama in the rank and position from which he was said to have been dismissed or degraded, and in which Memorandum the said Amba has stated that, in reply to his representation to His Majesty the Emperor of China on the subject, a copy of which was sent to the Thirring Poche Lama for information, His Majesty has been pleased to write that he would pass orders thereon after the return of the Potala Lama from Dhakhor.

The interpreter attached to the Teep Arsenal informs me that the Thibetans are at present also making "jangals" in the said arsenal for which eight artisans are engaged.

It is said that Khambas of Dhaya Chhyamdo are at present fighting with the troops sent by the Sithan Chandu, and that some of the Khambas have fled away into Thibetan territory.

Khani says that, with regard to the return of the Potala Lama to Lhasa, as the said Lama has not written anything about it to the Thibetan Government, the Thibetan Bharadars, in spite of the repeated communications received from the Chinese source on the subject, entertain doubts as to the veracity of the statement of the Chinese, to whom they are inclined to attribute some evil designs in giving currency to such a report, and believe that the said Lama would be back to Lhasa only by the month of Ashar or Sravan (June or July) of Sambat 1963.

The same informant says that all the Thibetan Bharadars are expressing their suspicion, while talking among themselves, about the Digarcha Lama, saying that he has seen Captain O'Connor, the British officer, and cultivated close friendship with him, so that it is now likely that the said Lama would join with the British.

On Tuesday, the 8th Kartik, while visiting the temple of Bhagwan, I also gave a call to the Thirring Poche Lama, with a view to get what information I could from him. In the course of the conversation the Lama said that the Kazis of Lhasa in carrying on State business were not straightforward, but ever followed a crooked policy, and, with a conduct quite perverse, thought of nothing else but of finding the ways and means of saving their heads and of taking bribes, while, on the other hand the Chinese Amba, who represented the Chinese Government at Lhasa, was no better than the Thibetans, because on inquiry it appeared that His Majesty the Emperor of China, who was the very fountain head of kindness and mercy, taking compassion on the poor little country of Thibet, which was quite unable to pay the amount of the indemnity to the British, and which was one solely given to religious pursuits and belonging to the priest of His Majesty, for whose welfare the priests there always offered their prayers to God, had sent instruction to the Amba, who, instead of carrying out the instruction received, wanted to know whether or not the amount of the indemnity money has been got ready, and whether, in order to settle and manage matters concerning the establishment of kathies, a competent man could be found in Thibet, because, if such a man be not available locally, the Government of China have intimated that they would send one from China. The Thirring Poche Lama went on to say that the motive of the Amba, as gleaned from the private and indirect messages from him, wanted a sum of 30,000 "Taks" for himself, which, if paid, he promised to send a representation to His Majesty the Emperor of China in such a favourable way as to bring relief to the Thibetans about the payment of the indemnity; that, in this way, while the Kazis went on writing meaningless letters, the Amba's conduct being as described above, the two parties might be said to be equally matched; that, as there was no other means of escape, the Thibetan Bharadars, after consultation amongst themselves, offered to pay 300 to 500 dhojes to the Amba if their purpose could be served, and this the Amba has accepted; that thus the Amba, instead of giving any assistance to Thibet, was rather holding back the order sent by His Majesty the Emperor of China for the payment of the indemnity, and was trying, by finding out some excuses, to exact from the Thibetans what must be considered to be a bribe; that at present the time was such when every one was not at all bent upon virtue; that news from the Gyantse side was to the effect that the British officers were still staying at Digarcha; that, if the advice given by him (Thirring Poche Lama) was followed last year, there should have been no occasion for the British to go to Digarcha, and no one in Thibet need have had any necessity to be molested in so many ways and directions; that the Kazis also entertained some misgiving that they would have no proper reply to give were the Potala Lama on his return to Lhasa to demand an explanation of the promise made to the

Amba for the payment of the amount mentioned above when His Majesty the Emperor of China had himself been pleased to pass an order to pay off the indemnity on behalf of the Thibetans; that, taking the facts as they stood into consideration, it appeared that the Potala Lama was not free to do anything as he wished, because had it been otherwise he would have surely sent some communication to the Thibetan Bharadars here, which he has not done for some time past; that all the preparations for his return were being made on the information received from the Amba; and that, though no time was definitely known of the return of the Potala Lama, the people were being troubled with the works in connection with the preparation for it. I then took leave of the Thirring Poche Lama, having said that they all should work in a way by which there would be no troubles to the people and for the better government of the country, and returned to my residence.

Information has been received here that the British officers, with some 200 sepoys armed with cannons and rifles, &c., having come to Digarcha, were putting up near the garden of the Digarcha Lama, named Yapsi, and that they gambol about or play in the parade-ground of the Chinese sepoys. The inhabitants here suspect that the said British officers have come to the place to proceed to Lhasa.

General Kharidar brought to me a Thibetan paper said to be a copy of a wangsew addressed by the Amba to the Thirring Poche Lama concerning Anglo-Thibetan matters, which I beg to inclose herein.

Ghulam Muhammad says that the British are collecting grain on the Gyantse-Digarcha side by taking on payment half the produce of the lands there from the cultivators; that the British have a suspicion of Russia; and that, as now the Russo-Japanese war is subsiding, it may not be improbable that the Russians and the British will come to blows.

Dated the 11th Kartik, Friday, Sambat 1962, corresponding to the 27th October, 1905.

[8211]

No. 42.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 8.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 1st March, relative to the visit of the Sechung Shape to India.

India Office, March 8, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 42.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

March 1, 1906.

THIBET. I agree to proposal in your telegram of the 28th ultimo as to residence at Calcutta for Shape.

[8301]

No. 43.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 9.)

Sir,

India Office, March 8, 1906.

IN reply to Mr. Campbell's letter of the 27th ultimo, respecting the Thibetan negotiations with China, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to say that he concurs in Sir E. Grey's proposal to inform Sir E. Satow, with reference to his telegram No. 30 of the 24th ultimo, that he need make no suggestion to the Chinese Government in regard to the Dalai Lama, nor press any portion of the prefix to Article II suggested by the Government of India.

Mr. Morley also agrees that the terms of the preamble may be left to Sir E. Satow.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[8301]

No. 44.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir E. Satow.

(No. 44.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, March 9, 1906.

THIBET Adhesion Convention.

We agree that it is not necessary to press the Chinese Government to accept any portion of the prefix to Article II, and that no suggestion should be made to them respecting the Dalai Lama.

Your proposal with regard to the preamble is approved.

See your telegram No. 30 of the 24th ultimo.

[8863]

No. 45.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 13.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 12th instant, relative to the visit of the Sechung Shape to India.

India Office, March 13, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 45.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

March 12, 1906.

THIBET indemnity: visit of Shape to Calcutta.

With reference to your telegram of the 1st March, report received from Lieutenant Campbell, dated the 4th March, that Shape would wait to discuss question of a house at Calcutta with O'Connor at Darjeeling. He had made no plans. Campbell instructed on the 5th March that he might tell Shape Government would be pleased to permit him to use Hastings House for a short stay, as he had made no other arrangements for residence in Calcutta. A house in Calcutta had, according to a report from White dated the 7th March, been taken for Shape, and all necessary arrangements made by Henderson, Chang's assistant, who had proceeded to Kalimpong to meet him.

On the 8th March Campbell was informed by us that the offer of Hastings House was made solely on the assumption that Shape had no other plan for his accommodation, and that in the event of Shape being met at Kalimpong by Henderson, and of latter offering to escort him to Calcutta and entertain him there, no attempt should be made to dissuade Shape from accepting invitation.

O'Connor is not being sent to meet Shape at Darjeeling because a telegram has been received from Campbell, dated the 9th March, stating that Shape had decided to accept Henderson's invitation, after the latter, who brought him a letter from Chang, had met him.

In order to insure that people of Chumbi Valley are paid for transport—which, unless some such arrangement was made, they were unwilling to supply to Shape—Campbell has been instructed to accompany Shape as far as Darjeeling. Chumbi transport is being retained on payment by Shape, who leaves Darjeeling for Calcutta on the 12th March.

Seven lakhs is reported to be the amount he may possibly offer to pay, and his stay in Calcutta will, it is said, only extend over four or five days. As directed in your telegram of the 22nd February, we will report our mature opinion should Shape tender payment and circumstances be altered by his remarks or attitude. At present we adhere to views reported in Viceroy's telegram of the 18th February as regards payment in Calcutta.

(Repeated to Peking.)

[8926]

No. 46.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 14.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 11th January, relative to Thibet affairs.

India Office, March 13, 1906.

Inclosure 1 in No. 46.

Government of India to Captain O'Connor.

Sir,

Fort William, December 12, 1905.

WITH reference to your telegram dated the 11th November, 1905, I am directed to forward herewith a copy of the revised text of the reply which the Government of India desire should be sent to the Lhasa Government, and to request that a Thibetan translation may be made and sent to Lieutenant Bayley, at Gyantse, without delay.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. E. HOLLAND,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

Revised Text.

The Government of India have read with much surprise the letter of the Lhasa Government to Captain O'Connor, and are aware of no justification for the unfriendly language which they have adopted. They have no knowledge of the promise which General Macdonald is alleged to have made to the two Phari Jongpens regarding the collection of taxes and the administration of justice in the Chumbi Valley. The intentions of the Government of India were fully and clearly stated in the signed Treaty, and the action taken by them in the Chumbi Valley calls for no explanation or defence, as it is in strict accordance with the terms of the Treaty. Existing telegraph poles cannot be removed, but wherever any injury to cultivators is proved, compensation will be given. The tone of the Thibetan letter seems to the Government of India to reveal a strange forgetfulness of the clemency shown to the Thibetans by the British Government in reducing the indemnity only nine months ago, and to be inconsistent with the mutual friendly relations which have since been maintained. Further, information has recently reached the Government of India to the effect that the Thibetans have contravened the terms of Article VIII of the Lhasa Convention by rebuilding the Jong at Gyantse in such a way as to afford accommodation for extensive armaments, and so to threaten the course of free communication with the towns of Gyantse and Lhasa.

The Government of India must now call upon the Thibetan Government at once to desist from any further contravention of the terms of the Treaty, and would remind them that early action is expected in discharge of their obligations, notably in respect of those which they have incurred under Articles V and VIII of the Treaty.

Inclosure 2 in No. 46.

Captain O'Connor to Political Agent, Sikkim.

December 18, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in accordance with the instructions contained in Foreign Department letter dated the 12th December, 1905, I have prepared and forwarded to Lieutenant Bailey, at Gyantse, a Thibetan translation of the letter from the Government of India to the Lhasa Government inclosed in the above-quoted communication.

2. With reference to this communication to Lhasa, I would venture to make a few remarks for the favour of your consideration.

The reference to the matter of the rebuilding of Gyantse Jong in the Government of India's letter to Lhasa, whilst pointing out that the reconstructed Jong is capable of affording accommodation to extensive armaments and of threatening free communication with Lhasa and Gyantse, makes no claim upon the Thibetans, except that they should "desist" from further contravention of the Treaty. But as the rebuilding of the Jong was completed some months ago, and as no labour is now proceeding there, such a claim would have no practical effect, and is too indefinite to induce the Lhasa Government to take any active step, such as pulling down any part of the Jong, which might be considered by us objectionable.

3. I venture, therefore, to direct your attention to the two courses which appear to me to be open for us to adopt in dealing with this matter. The first would be to point out to the Thibetans that certain portions of the Jong (such as the gateway, surrounding walls, and all parapet walls of over, say, 9 inches in height) are clearly designed as defences, and, as such, are clearly contrary to the provisions of Article VIII of the Lhasa Convention, and must forthwith be pulled down. The residential buildings, offices, granaries, and so on, might be left as they are. We should, I think, be quite justified in taking this course, and it might be pointed out that after our original occupation of the Jong in April 1904, General Macdonald, before leaving Gyantse, took the precaution of blowing up the two main gateways, although hostilities were not at that time actually contemplated. The British Trade Agent and British Officer in Command of the escort at Gyantse might be instructed to inspect the Jong buildings and to indicate to the Jongpon what portions they regarded as objectionable. The second course would be to refrain from all mention of the matter at all, which, unless we intend to insist upon the Lhasa Government taking some actual steps such as suggested above, would appear to me better than merely to inform the Thibetans that we desire them to desist from a course of action which is now completed.

4. In addition to the matter of the rebuilding of the Gyantse Jong, I would venture to suggest that, in replying to the letter of the Lhasa Government to me, we might tax the Thibetans with having infringed the terms of the Convention in the following instances:—

- (a.) By levying trade dues at Phari.
- (b.) By the stoppage of free trade via Khamba Jong.
- (c.) By the stoppage of the letters of the British Trade Agent at Gartok.
- (d.) By their failure to pull down defence walls on the road between Gyantse and Lhasa.

All in the course of the last twelve months. All these matters are well authenticated and are all in clear contravention of the provision of the Treaty.

5. In conclusion, I would venture to call your attention to the advisability of communicating to the Lhasa Government as soon as possible the place where we desire that the indemnity shall be paid upon the 1st January next. This, no doubt, has already been done; but if it should have been omitted, its neglect will give the Thibetan authorities an excuse for a considerable delay in the payment of the indemnity, and will tend to strengthen their belief that we do not intend to insist upon its payment. Such an impression at the present stage of Thibetan politics seems to me to be most undesirable, and an insistence upon this point would prove to the Chinese, as well as to the Thibetans, that we do not propose to allow the Treaty to be reduced to a dead-letter.

Inclosure 3 in No. 46.

Political Agent, Sikkim, to Government of India.

Sir,

Camp Rangpo, December 4, 1905.

I HAVE the honour to send three letters, with translation, from Ti-Rimpoche to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, his Excellency the Viceroy, and Lord Curzon.

In a separate parcel are sent the three pieces of silk mentioned in these letters.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN C. WHITE.

Gaden Ti-Rimpoche to Lord Curzon.

(Translation.)

MAY your Excellency's health be strong like the roots of a stately tree and your affairs prosper like the leaves of a flourishing tree.

Your Excellency well knows of the friendship between the two Governments, and forwarded a sealed letter, dated the 12th of the 8th month, through Mr. White, the Political Agent in Sikkim, and Captain O'Connor, of Gyantse. This reached me safely on the 13th of the 9th Thibetan month.

Here, I am also quite well, by the mercy of God, and the affairs of my state are prospering as well as my religious duties.

(After compliments.)

That last year although the two Governments were accidentally led to a small quarrel, the British Government considered it necessary to make peace, which was accordingly done and a Treaty signed. After this, the indemnity was also reduced by 50 lacs of rupees, also with the understanding that there would be good friendship henceforth between the two Governments. For this all the Thibetan people on this side are very happy. The British Representatives, however, who came to Lhasa last year for making the Treaty, though they did their utmost to make a peaceful Agreement with the Thibetan Government, altogether refused to listen to any of our repeated prayers about the terms of the Treaty, and said that it would be quite impossible for them to alter any of their Government's orders in this way. Being helpless, we were obliged, with much sorrow, to sign the Treaty. The Treaty also stipulated that until the indemnity is paid the Chumbi Valley is to be occupied by the British Government; nothing was said about preventing the Thibetan Government from levying taxes and deciding cases there. Now, the British officials residing at Phari and Tomo prevented the two Thibetan Jongpens from levying taxes and deciding cases between the Tomo and Phari people, and appointed the village Headmen to perform these duties, thus reversing the positions of these officers and servants (of the Thibetan Government). They also ordered that no Thibetan or Chinese official can use pack ponies and coolies belonging to our subjects of Tomo and Phari without paying for them, and notices to the effect that the Thibetan Government can levy no taxes or collect rent have been posted in all the districts. Regarding this, we sent prayers through the Phari Jongpens laying forth our reasons and asking that such steps should not be taken. In reply, we were told that a representation will be sent to the Viceroy, and when a reply is received it will be forwarded; but as yet no reply has been received. Owing to this we and the Thibetan people are extremely grieved, and are laying these facts clearly and truthfully before your Excellency, as it is known to your Excellency that if the frontier officials do this sort of thing, is it likely ever to bring friendly relations between the two Governments?

Now, as the British Government desired to make a long and durable friendship with Thibet, and as we were also earnestly expecting this would be of some benefit to us, we, the Government, with all the people, now pray that your Excellency will help us by trying to alter those points on which we do not agree.

In conclusion, I trust that your Excellency's health is of the best, and that you will give us good news of our friendly relations.

I send this with a silk scarf and a piece of dark-brown silk, dated the 23rd of the 9th month (19th November, 1905).

[9018]

No. 47.

Mr. Spring-Rice to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 56.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

St. Petersburg, March 14, 1906.

THE Emperor has recently received Durjiev, who brought His Majesty presents from the Dalai Lama, with a message requesting protection in the event of his life being endangered. This information was furnished to me by the Director of the Asiatic Department of the Foreign Office, who also said that the Lama is now staying with one of the Mongolian princes, and that he wishes to return to Lhasa.

In reply, Durjiev received a vague message of thanks for the Dalai Lama.

The Russian Government is anxious that what has passed should at once be brought to your knowledge.

[9509]

No. 48.

Mr. Spring-Rice to Sir Edward Grey. (Received March 19.)

(No. 190.)

Sir,

St. Petersburg, March 14, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to state that M. Hartwig, Director of the Asiatic Department, informed me to-day that Mr. Dorjiev, who had on previous occasions come to Russia on behalf of the Dalai Lama, had recently arrived at St. Petersburg, and had requested an audience with the Emperor in order to present a message and gifts with which the Lama had charged him. His Majesty had granted him an audience, and had accepted the gifts, which consisted of an image of Buddha, a very interesting copy of Buddhistical liturgy, and a piece of stuff. The message was to the effect that the Lama had the utmost respect and devotion for the "Great White Tsar," and that he looked to His Majesty for protection from the dangers which threatened his life if he returned to Lhasa, as was his intention and duty. The answer returned to him was of a friendly character, consisting of an expression of His Majesty's thanks for his message and of his interest in his welfare.

M. Hartwig said that he wished that His Majesty's Government should hear exactly what had occurred, as the press would probably make out that the audience had a political character.

I thanked him for his communication, and said that, in the negotiations which were now going on with regard to the Thibetan Treaty, His Majesty's Government was taking every possible precaution that the spirit and the letter of the verbal understanding arrived at in London between the Russian Embassy and the Foreign Office should be scrupulously observed, and that I had no doubt that the Russian Government would be animated by the same desire.

In reply to my inquiry as to where the Dalai Lama now was, M. Hartwig told me that he had had a disagreement with the Incarnation of Urga owing to a difference as to the division of fees, and that he was now staying with one of the Mongolian princes. He added that his emissary had also brought presents for Count Lamsdorff and himself, which had been duly deposited in the Foreign Office.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CECIL SPRING-RICE.

[9704]

No. 49.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 19.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 17th instant, relative to the visit of the Sechung Shape to Calcutta, and the payment of the Thibetan indemnity.

India Office, March 17, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 49.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

March 17, 1906.

(Telegraphic.) P.

THIBET. Payment of indemnity. Please refer to my telegram of the 12th instant. Following is translation by Henderson, of Chinese Customs, accompanying letter, dated the 15th instant, which we have received from Shape. Letter is dated by Thibetan calendar, and contains no reference to Chinese Government:—

"I left Lhasa two months ago, my progress being retarded by heavy snow; I reached Calcutta yesterday. I have come to arrange for the payment of the indemnity. If you will kindly inform me at what place payment is to be tendered, and by whom it will be received, I shall be infinitely obliged to you."

In reply, I propose to say that first instalment, due on the 1st January, should be paid to Trade Agent at Gyantse. As Lhasa Government has already been informed under Article VI of Treaty, I will address you again in the event of Shape, who will be requested to make payment accordingly, urging on receipt of above reply acceptance at Calcutta. Please telegraph whether you agree in the course proposed above.

[9704]

No. 50.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir E. Satow.

(No. 53.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, March 21, 1906.

PLEASE report the position of affairs in regard to the Thibet Adhesion Convention.

In my telegram No. 32 of the 23rd February I inquired whether you could not make use of the difficulty in regard to the acceptance from the Shape at Calcutta of an instalment of the indemnity to hasten the adhesion of China to the Convention.

The Government of India now report that the Shape has arrived at Calcutta, and has inquired where payment should be tendered. They will request him to pay at Gyantse, and if he urges acceptance of payment at Calcutta, will submit the matter for the consideration of His Majesty's Government.

[10063]

No. 51.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 22.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 22nd February, relative to the Tashi Lama's visit to India.

India Office, March 21, 1906.

Inclosure 1 in No. 51.

Government of India to Political Agent, Gangtok.

(Telegraphic.)

Calcutta, December 7, 1905.

YOUR letter, dated the 28th November, forwarding O'Connor's letter, dated the 23rd November, regarding Tashi Lama.

Please forward copies of following correspondence mentioned in O'Connor's letter, viz.:—

Your telegram to him, dated the 25th June, 1905; his telegraphic reply, dated the 25th June; your telegram to him, dated the 8th September; and letter, dated the 9th September; together with copy of any other connected correspondence on same subject between you and O'Connor.

Inclosure 2 in No. 51.

Mr. J. C. White to Government of India.

(Confidential.)

Calcutta, December 18, 1905.

WITH reference to your telegram dated the 7th December, 1905, I have the honour to forward copies of the correspondence which has passed between me and Captain O'Connor on the subject of the support to be given to the Tashi Lama.

Inclosure 3 in No. 51.

Mr. J. C. White to Captain O'Connor.

(Telegraphic.)

June 25, 1905.

IN your opinion, would it be advisable to invite Tashi Lama to Calcutta, and would he be likely to accept invitation?

Please wire reply immediately.

Inclosure 4 in No. 51.

Captain O'Connor to Mr. J. C. White.

(Telegraphic.)

June 25, 1905.

YOUR cypher telegram of to-day's date.

As reported in my diary, 9th May, Tashi Lama has practically asked to be taken under our protection, and his Prime Minister has written since to me, saying Lama proposing shortly himself to write letter to Viceroy. In these circumstances, if Government are prepared to make definite promise to Lama to protect him against any attempt at vengeance on the part of Lhasa Government, I am of opinion that civilities on our part are distinctly advisable, including an invitation visit Calcutta, which he would probably accept, provided he is given some such guarantee as suggested above. Such guarantee or promise on our part would, in my opinion, be amply sufficient to restrain Lhasa people from active measures of hostility directed against Tashi Lhumpo, and the necessity for employment of force to back our promise would be in a lasting degree improbable. Failing such guarantee, it would not be fair to Lama to ask him to compromise himself with us in any marked manner, nor do I think he would care himself to do so.

Inclosure 5 in No. 51.

Mr. J. C. White to Captain O'Connor.

(Telegraphic.)

Gangtok, August 20, 1905.

DATED Tangu, 18th.

Government of India agree to my suggestion that you should sound Tashi Lama as to his willingness to visit Calcutta, and they will be prepared to issue formal invitation if it would be accepted. Act accordingly, and wire to me immediately you know result.

The reply to the above telegram was received in Captain O'Connor's cypher telegram, dated the 2nd September, 1905, addressed to Foreign and repeated to me.

Inclosure 6 in No. 51.

Mr. J. C. White to Captain O'Connor.

(Telegraphic.)

September 8, 1905.

IN reply my telegram, 3rd September, to Foreign, Government of India wires :—

"No. 3651 I.-C. . . . not depend reply received."

You should, therefore, accept invitation and proceed there as soon as possible after receipt of written instructions. Government will not issue any invitation unless Tashi

Lama definitely decides to accept, and the acceptance must be quite apart from any reference to Peking, which should be discouraged. You can point out to Lama that it is greatly to his advantage and interest for him to visit Calcutta, with reference to his repeated communications to you about his position in Shigatse. Going personally, you will be able to explain more fully to him. You know my views, and should do your best to persuade him to accept. Send messenger back from Shigatse with wires for me with result.

Inclosure 7 in No. 51.

Captain O'Connor to Mr. J. C. White.

September 8, 1905.

(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram of to-day.

Instructions received and understood. I shall be prepared to start at once for Shigatse on receipt of written instructions. Can you give me idea when these may be expected, so that I may know approximately what date I shall start? Would ask further instructions on following points:—

1. Lama is sure to ask when he will be invited to reach Calcutta, and like be able to inform him approximately of date when his arrival will be expected there;

2. I presume he may bring with him practically what following he desires. He always travels with large retinue;

3. I shall endeavour dissuade him from reference Peking, which is his idea, not mine; but should he desire to do so, is he to be allowed to use our telegraph wire to telegraph to Emperor of China? Telegrams would have to be *en clair*;

4. Should he accept invitation, shall I remain Shigatse until arrival formal invitation, upon receipt which there will certainly be a number of details to settle, and besides my presence Shigatse might prevent pressure being brought to bear on Lama from Lhasa to change his mind.

Inclosure 8 in No. 51.

Mr. J. C. White to Captain O'Connor.

September 9, 1905.

(Confidential.)

YESTERDAY I sent you a telegram. I have now the honour to send a copy.

2. As you will see in the above telegram, the Government of India are not prepared to send any invitation before the Tashi Lama definitely decides that he will accept it, and they will not make any proposals or suggestions to Peking with respect to the Lama's visit. This you must clearly point out to him, and, if possible, get him to accept without any reference to China.

3. You must clearly point out to the Lama that his acceptance, should he accept, must be final, and must not in any way depend on a reference to Peking; though, should he press the point, we cannot prevent him doing so, and the only means by which he can obtain an answer in time would be by sending a telegraphic message over our line, which necessarily must be sent *en clair*, as he can have access to no Chinese code, and it would not be desirable to ask the Amban's services in sending it. You must bear in mind that the Lama's acceptance of the invitation is certainly to his own advantage, and that Government is not pressing an invitation on him, and is probably indifferent as to its acceptance. It is entirely on his account that the invitation is being given. He has made certain proposals to you, and the invitation is being issued in consequence of these proposals, and it ought to be very much to his advantage to accept it. You must put the matter strongly before him in this light.

4. In reply to your telegram of yesterday and to the points raised. Date of visit. The Government of India, in their letter of the 3rd August, give no definite date, and say "to pay a visit to Calcutta (of about ten days' duration) during the period of His Royal Highness' visit. The exact dates will be given later." The official dates of His Royal Highness' programme as now given out are Calcutta, the 29th December, 1905, to the 6th January, 1906. Therefore, the Tashi Lama would have to be in Calcutta in the latter half of December.

The exact dates will be given later, but he should be within reach, and can easily delay a day or two *en route* so as to make the dates fit exactly.

5. I would also ask you to ascertain from the Tashi Lama if he intends, and would like to visit Budh Gaya.

6. With regard to the number of the Tashi Lama's following, I think there will be no difficulty, but it should be kept down as small as possible, as accommodation in Calcutta for all the followers will be a consideration and may be difficult to procure. Please ascertain the smallest retinue he can travel with. I would also ask to be informed what other big Lamas or gentry he will bring in his train. The whole *entourage* should be as small as possible.

7. With regard to your query about remaining in Shigatse. There is no certainty when Government will issue the invitation, possibly not before other invitations are issued, and that may not be for some weeks. I do not, therefore wish you to remain in Shigatse; but when you have discussed the matter fully and made any arrangements that are necessary, you can return to Gyantse. It is still over three months before the Lama's presence is required in Calcutta.

8. I am also sending a complimentary letter to you to deliver to the Tashi Lama.

Inclosure 9 in No. 51.

Captain Campbell to Mr. J. C. White.

(Confidential.)

(Extract.)

Chumbi, January 4, 1906.

Tashi Lama's Visit.—A considerable party in Lhasa is said to regard the Tashi Lama's visit with favour, as tending to foster friendly relations between Thibet and India. However, rumours of trouble in store for him when he returns are also beginning to circulate.

Memorandum.

Copy submitted to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department for information.

(Signed)

W. L. CAMPBELL, *Captain,*
Assistant Political Officer, Chumbi.

Chumbi, January 4, 1906.

[10076]

No. 52.

Sir E. Satow to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 56.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, March 22, 1906.

THIBET negotiations.

Your telegram No. 53.

On the 14th March I saw T'ang and communicated to him a counter-draft of the Convention, draft preamble, and a draft note, containing the stipulation in Article V of the Indian draft dated the 14th April last year. T'ang said he would consult Prince Ch'ing and made no formal objection to anything in them.

He informed me yesterday with reference to the Convention that he would call in a few days to discuss the matter.

[10355]

No. 53.

Questions asked in the House of Commons, March 23, 1906.

Sir H. Cotton asked the Secretary of State for India whether the final arrangement come to between the Government of India and the Thibetan authorities in September 1904 was that the Thibetan Government should pay to the Government of India an indemnity of 25,00,000 rupees, payable by annual instalments of 1,00,000 rupees, the first instalment being payable on the 1st January, 1906; whether

this instalment had been paid; and, if not, whether it was proposed to allow payment to lapse or to take any measure to enforce payment.

Mr. Morley,—The indemnity payable by Thibet is as stated. The first instalment of one lakh became due on the 1st January last. Communications as to the payment are now proceeding between the Government of India and a Thibetan official, who has been instructed by the Lhasa Government to arrange for the payment.

Mr. Flynn asked whether the House was to understand that the Thibetan Government had to pay an indemnity for being invaded.

Mr. Morley,—I can only go into the Convention.

Sir H. Cotton,—Are we to understand that no part of the indemnity has been paid?

Mr. Morley,—Proceedings are going on, as I have said, at Calcutta, between the officials of the Government of India and the Thibetan Government.

[10353]

No. 54.

IN answer to a further question by *Sir H. Cotton*,

Mr. Morley said,—Trade marts have been opened at Gyantse and Gartok under the terms of the Convention of 1904. The mart at Gyantse has taken the place of that at Yatung, at which no Trade Agent is stationed. Captain O'Connor has been appointed Trade Agent at Gyantse, and Thakeer Jai Chand at Gartok. There is no escort at Gartok. The escort at Gyantse consists of seventy-five native infantry.

[10354]

No. 55.

IN answer to a further question by *Sir H. Cotton*,

Mr. Morley said,—Our temporary occupation of the Chumbi Valley is based on a system of allowing the people to manage their affairs through their Headmen, with a right of appeal in certain cases against their Headmen to the Assistant Political Agent. After discussion with the local Headmen, proposals to raise a revenue estimated at 4,075 rupees per annum on the lines of the existing system of taxation have been sanctioned by the Government of India. This is less than the amount hitherto raised. The Civil Officer in responsible charge of the valley is *Mr. J. C. White*, Political Officer in Sikkim, with an assistant stationed in the Chumbi Valley. The strength of the troops is two and a half companies of native infantry (about 200 men). I have no separate figures of cost. But the total annual cost of the occupation of the Chumbi, and of the trade agencies at Gyantse and Gartok, including military expenditure, is 3,58,600 rupees.

Sir H. Cotton,—Looking to the fact that the occupation of the valley was to last for three years only, I should like to know whether the omission to pay the indemnity will protract that occupation?

Mr. Morley,—We must wait, and see whether the indemnity is or is not paid.

[10760]

No. 56.

Question asked in the House of Commons, March 26, 1906.

Mr. Lonsdale,—To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has any information as to the effect of the reception of the Tashi Lama in India in promoting a feeling of cordiality on the part of the people of Thibet towards the British.

Answer.

I have received no report on the subject. I am informed that the visit to India, which was a ceremonial one, passed off satisfactorily.

[10717]

No. 57.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 28.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 26th March, relative to the Thibet indemnity.

India Office, March 27, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 57.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

March 26, 1906.

THIBET negotiations. Visit of Shapé to Calcutta. Letter has been presented by Shapé in which he says that 1 lakh is amount fixed by Treaty as first instalment, and refers to communication from White in which this amount is mentioned; British Government, however, he explains, subsequently reduced amount, and first instalment is thus 8,33,333 rupees, not 1 lakh as stated by White, since it appears from letter that 25 lakhs remain to be cleared off in three annual instalments; Shapé, who requests early answer as he is anxious to return to Thibet, also asks that Trade Agent, Gyantse, should receive authority to accept amount named by him as instalment, and inquiries whether cheque on Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, Calcutta branch, may be accepted by Trade Agent, as Thibetan money is not current, outside Thibet.

In reply, we propose to explain that, under Treaty and Declaration of the 11th November, 1904, to the language of which we shall refer, instalment of 1 lakh only is due, and that authority has already been given to Trade Agent to accept this sum in manner indicated. We would add that sum is payable in rupees of Indian currency at Gyantse.

It has been ascertained that wording of Thibetan translation of Lord Ampthill's Declaration of the 11th November, 1904, forwarded with Fraser's letter of the 15th idem, is to the effect that, "after due payment of three annual instalments of 1 lakh each of said indemnity, occupation of Chumbi Valley shall cease;" Fraser's letter also admits of no doubt; but perhaps misreading of paragraph 2 of this letter is the "letter" which Shapé mentions. Suggestion that whole indemnity should be paid in three instalments is a Chinese device having for its object the weakening of our position in Thibet. Treaty obligation is clear.

We should prefer, as requested by Thibetans themselves at time of signing Treaty, to receive annual payments of 1 lakh each at Gyantse, both for political effect and because money is required for recurring rent expenditure there. Original reduction of

indemnity would be rendered nugatory if payment were made by cheque as proposed by Shapé. This would be payment in Calcutta by Chinese, who presumably have not yet adhered, and not at Gyantse by Thibetans. Currency notes are in demand in Thibet for trade purposes, and if His Majesty's Government consider full sum offered must be accepted, we would request Shapé to pay at Gyantse in such notes.

[11035]

No. 58.

Sir E. Satow to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 30.)

(No. 61.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, March 30, 1906.

PLEASE refer to your telegram No. 20 respecting the Thibetan Convention.

My counterdraft, framed on the basis of the suggestions approved in your telegram above mentioned, which was handed to T'ang Shao Yi on the 14th instant, was brought back by him to-day.

He desires the retention of the word "interfere" in both passages of Article II. In this, I think, there can be no great harm.

See my telegram No. 7. He proposed to retain the wording of Article III as there given, as he is anxious that the fact that China has not been ignored in the arrangements respecting telegraph lines should be formally recognized. I proposed, as a method of overcoming the inconvenience of that wording, which would not prevent China from hindering construction, the following alternative: "but it has been arranged with China that at the trade-marts, specified in Article II of the aforesaid Convention, Great Britain shall be entitled to lay down telegraph lines connecting with India."

Concerning the question of non-employment of foreigners, provided that I receive authority to state verbally that for one year from the date of signature, which would allow time for Customs organization, foreigners—meaning Mr. Henderson—may be employed by China, he consents to an exchange of notes framed in exact accordance with the wording of Article V of the draft of the 17th April, 1905, given to him at Calcutta.

Instead of speaking of the two Governments, he wishes the wording to be "Great Britain and Thibet" in the preamble and the body of the Convention.

It will, I hope, be possible to sign on or before the 8th April if these modifications are approved.

[10717]

No. 59.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir E. Satow.

(No. 63.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, March 30, 1906.

SHAPE proposes that the Thibet indemnity of 25 lakhs should be cleared off in three annual instalments, and has offered to pay one instalment (viz., 8 lakhs 33,333 rupees) to the trade agent at Gyantse by cheque on the Calcutta branch of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank. He has communicated with the Government of India in this sense.

The Government of India consider it advisable not to depart from the terms of the Treaty, and propose to reply that an instalment of only 1 lakh payable in Indian rupees is due.

What is your view of the matter?

Do you consider that a refusal to accept payment is likely to decide the Chinese Government to adhere to the Convention, otherwise there does not seem to be anything to be gained by not allowing the indemnity to be paid quickly.

The Government of India think that the proffered payment of the whole indemnity in three instalments is a device on the part of the Chinese to weaken our position in Thibet.

[11146]

No. 60.

Sir E. Satow to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 63.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, March 31, 1906.

MY telegram No. 61 and my despatch No. 426 of the 9th December, 1905.

I would suggest that, for the present, the reply to the proposal of the Shape, contained in your telegram No. 63 of yesterday's date, should be delayed, as it would be unwise, in my opinion, to accept any arrangement which alters the terms of the Lhasa Convention until after the signature of the adhesion Agreement.

When, however, signature has been concluded, I see no advantage in refusing the conditions proposed by the Shape.

[11420]

No. 61.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 3.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 19th March, relative to Russia and the Dalai Lama.

India Office, April 2, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 61.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, March 19, 1906.

DALAI LAMA said to be now staying with Mongolian Prince and to be desirous of returning to Lhasa. Dorjief, who brought presents and message from Lama asking protection in case latter's life is in danger, was recently received by Czar of Russia. In reply, vague message of thanks to Dalai Lama was given.

Above information volunteered to Mr. Spring-Rice by Russian Government, who wish His Majesty's Government to know at once what has passed.

[11422]

No. 62.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 3.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 19th ultimo, relative to the Thibet indemnity.

India Office, April 2, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 62.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, March 19, 1906.

I AGREE to proposals regarding Thibet indemnity contained in your telegram of the 17th instant.

[11674]

No. 63.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 5.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 3rd April, relative to the Thibet negotiations.

India Office, April 4, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 63.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

April 3, 1906.

THIBET negotiations.

With reference to my telegram of the 16th February, please telegraph your views as early as possible as to following further modifications of Adhesion Agreement. If these modifications are approved, Satow anticipates early settlement. Firstly, the words "Governments of" to be omitted throughout the Adhesion Agreement wherever the words "Governments of Great Britain and Thibet" occur; secondly, provided that Satow is authorized to state verbally that China may employ foreigners (Mr. Henderson) for twelve months after the date of signature, in order to give time for the organization of the customs, Chinese Government agree to exchange of notes regarding employment of foreigners in sense of Article V of Calcutta draft; thirdly, it is proposed to retain the word "interfere," to which the Chinese attach importance, in Article II; fourthly, the omission of the words "by arrangement with China" in Article III is objected to by Chinese. Substitution of words "but it has been arranged with China that at trade marts specified in Article II of the aforesaid Convention, Great Britain shall be entitled to lay down telegraph lines connecting with India," for the passage beginning "but at the trade marts" to end of Article is proposed by Satow as a compromise.

[11711]

No. 64.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 5.)

Sir,

India Office, April 4, 1906.

IN continuation of the correspondence on the subject of the indemnity due from the Thibetans, ending with Mr. Campbell's letter of the 2nd instant, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to inclose, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram from the Government of India relating to the manner in which payment is to be made.*

It will be observed that the Chinese Government have placed at the disposal of the Thibetans a sum equal to one-third of the whole indemnity, with the apparent intention of paying off the full amount in three years.

Mr. Morley feels much hesitation in accepting the views of the Government of India on this point. While recognizing that certain advantages have been supposed by some to arise from the political point of view in maintaining our hold over the Thibetans for the full period of twenty-five years, he is of opinion that such advantages would be altogether outweighed by our relief from the necessity of enforcing a direct annual tribute for so long a period.

As regards the Shapé's proposal to pay by means of a cheque on the Calcutta branch of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, Mr. Morley is not disposed to press the Government of India's objection to this form of payment, should the Shapé find any difficulty in providing the requisite sum in currency notes.

Mr. Morley is therefore of opinion that, whatever may be the issue of the pending negotiations at Peking, it will not be possible to refuse the proposals of the Thibetan

* Government of India to India Office, March 26, 1906.

authorities referred to above. At the same time, he accepts the view stated in Sir E. Satow's telegram No. 63 of the 31st ultimo, that it would be better to delay any reply to the Shapé for the present until the situation with regard to the signature of the Adhesion Agreement develops.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[11723]

No. 65.

Sir E. Satow to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 5.)

(No. 69.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, April 5, 1906.

PLEASE refer to previous telegrams respecting the Thibetan Adhesion Agreement. Tang Shao-yi has furnished me with a copy of the Lhasa Convention and the declaration appended to it, the Chinese text of which should, in my opinion, be verified.

If, as I presume, the India Office possess it, I suggest that Mr. Wilton might be asked to telegraph the entire text to me as soon as possible, using the numbers in Giles' Dictionary.

[12321]

No. 66.

Mr. Spring-Rice to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 67.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

St. Petersburg, April 9, 1906.

IN the course of conversation with Count Lamsdorff to-day I alluded to the subject of the telegram recently sent by the Emperor to the Dalai Lama of Thibet. His Excellency informed me that the policy of his Government with regard to that country was the same as that of His Majesty's Government, namely, that of non-intervention. They wished the Dalai Lama to return as soon as possible to Lhasa, as they considered his continued presence in Mongolia undesirable, but he has fears for the safety of his person on his return, and had asked for a promise of protection. The telegram had been sent in place of this promise, and was designed to reassure, not only the Dalai Lama himself, but also the Emperor's Buddhist subjects, with regard to whom the Russian Government would find themselves in a very embarrassing position should any mishap befall the Lama.

The intention of the Russian Government, his Excellency informed me, in order to avoid all misunderstanding, is to keep us fully informed.

[12811]

No. 67.

Mr. Spring-Rice to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 251.)

Sir,

St. Petersburg, April 10, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a telegram addressed by the Emperor to the Dalai Lama, under the title of "Supreme Head of the Thibetan People." I may observe that the term used may simply imply that the Lama is the spiritual head of the people, as, for instance, the Grand Rabbi might be described as the "supreme head" of the Jewish community. But I understand from the Chinese Minister that he regards the telegram in rather a serious light, and as an infringement of China's sovereignty.

I saw Count Lamsdorff yesterday, and in the course of conversation I observed that, although I had received no instructions to mention the subject, I could not help remarking that the terms of the telegram, and the fact of its having been sent and published in the "Official Messenger," might create a disagreeable impression in England. He said at once that he was glad to have an opportunity of talking to me on the subject. When the Emperor had received the Dorjiev Mission he had taken care that you should be at once informed, as he was afraid that it might be misinterpreted. As I was aware, his object was to pursue a policy of perfect frankness, which, in his judgment, was the best way of avoiding complications. He could assure me that the policy of Russia towards Thibet was one of absolute non-intervention. The Russian Government desired that neither Russia nor England, nor any other

[1640]

P

Power, should interfere in Thibetan affairs, and that Thibet should be tranquil both externally and internally. He understood that this was also the policy of His Majesty's Government. But the Emperor could not be indifferent to the sentiment of the large Buddhist population of the Russian Empire. They looked to the Dalai Lama as their spiritual head, and his fate could not be a matter of indifference to them. At the present moment the Dalai Lama was in Mongolia as a guest of one of the Mongol Princes. He desired to return to Lhasa, but he was afraid that if he did so his life would be in danger. He had pressed for a safe conduct, which of course it was impossible to give. But in order to encourage him to return, it had been thought advisable to send a telegram of a cordial nature which could reassure him and the Buddhist population. The Russian Government desired most sincerely that he should remain quiet when he returned, and that he should do nothing to give reasonable cause for anxiety. He begged me to give you this message, which I promised to do.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CECIL SPRING-RICE.

Inclosure in No. 67.

August Telegram from the Emperor to His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Supreme Head of the Thibetan People.

MY numerous subjects professing the Buddhist faith won the happiness of saluting their spiritual Chief during his sojourn in the north of Mongolia, contiguous to the Russian Empire. Rejoicing that my subjects were able to receive a beneficent, spiritual influence from your Holiness, I beg you to believe my feeling of sincere gratitude and esteem towards you.

(Signed) NICHOLAS.

March 23 (April 5), 1906.

[12812]

No. 68.

Mr. Spring-Rice to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 252. Confidential.)

Sir,

St. Petersburg, April 10, 1906.

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch on the subject of the telegram sent by the Emperor to the Dalai Lama, I have the honour to state that Count Witte sent a message to me to the effect that the telegram had no political character, and was designed mainly for internal consumption, with special regard to the sentiments of the Buddhist communities in Russia.

In my conversation with Count Lamsdorff I confined myself to observations of a very general character on the subject of the desirability of pursuing a policy of perfect frankness in regard to Thibet as to all the subjects which interested the two Governments.

I venture, however, to remark that the Russian Government must be aware of our objections to the return of the Grand Lama to Lhasa, as also of the reception accorded to the Tashi Lama in India. There are, therefore, symptoms of a possible conflict arising out of the antagonism between the two spiritual Potentates, one of whom will support Russian and the other British interests. As you are aware, Russian policy has long aimed at consolidating Russian influence in Mongolia, and for this purpose an Agent, in the person of the revered Head of the Buddhist communities, would be of paramount importance. The Grand Lama appears to be not unwilling to play this rôle. But until he returns to Lhasa he is a living example of Russian helplessness. He appears to have sent word to the Emperor that he is afraid for his life. It is, therefore, highly desirable from the Russian point of view that these fears should be dispelled, and it is no doubt thought that the public recognition of his holy character and of the Emperor's regard will serve as a species of safe conduct, and may induce him to hasten his departure.

If he returns to Lhasa, there can be little doubt that he will do all in his power to make himself useful to the Russians. On the other hand, it is to be presumed that the Tashi Lama will play a somewhat similar part as regards England.

The policy of the Russian Minister in Peking will no doubt be aimed at preventing the Chinese Government from doing, what I am assured by the Chinese Minister here they desire to do, that is, in case the Lama attempts to play a political part, to depose him. Such a step would be regarded as a great blow to Russian prestige, and would be violently opposed by the Russian Government.

There appear, therefore, to be grounds for the fear that complications may arise in the near future, and as Count Lamsdorff has expressed his desire that a policy of perfect frankness should be pursued by the two Governments, it might, perhaps, be advisable that some more definite understanding should be arrived at which could preclude the possibility of a serious conflict of interests.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CECIL SPRING-RICE.

[13241]

No. 69.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 18.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 17th April, relative to the Thibetan indemnity.

India Office, April 18, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 69.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

April 17, 1906.

THIBET. Your telegram of the 5th instant.

Commissioner, Chinese Customs, Calcutta, has telegraphed as follows to us :—

“I am requested by Thibetan Minister, who is very anxious to return to Thibet, to ask that I may kindly be informed by you when your promised reply to his letter may be expected by him.”

Shape is being informed direct, in reply, that answer will be sent as soon as possible, matter being under consideration.

[13433]

No. 70.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 20.)

Sir,

India Office, April 17, 1906.

IN reply to Sir Eric Barrington's letter of the 31st ultimo relative to the negotiations for the adhesion of China to the Thibet Convention, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to say that he concurs in Secretary Sir E. Grey's proposal to instruct Sir E. Satow to accept the modifications which the Chinese Government desire to introduce in the draft, as reported in his telegram No. 61.

A copy of telegrams which have passed between this Office and the Government of India on the subject is inclosed for Sir E. Grey's information.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 70.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, April 3, 1906.

THIBET negotiations. With reference to my telegram of the 16th February, please telegraph your views as early as possible as to following further modifications of

Adhesion Agreement. If these modifications are approved, Satow anticipates early settlement :—

1. The words "Governments of" to be omitted throughout the Adhesion Agreement wherever the words "Governments of Great Britain and Thibet" occur ;

2. Provided that Satow is authorized to state verbally that China may employ foreigners (Mr. Henderson) for twelve months after the date of signature in order to give time for the organization of the Customs, Chinese Government agree to exchange of notes regarding employment of foreigners in sense of Article V of Calcutta draft ;

3. It is proposed to retain the word "interfere," to which the Chinese attach importance, in Article II ; and

4. The omission of the words "by arrangement with China" in Article III is objected to by Chinese. Substitution of words "but it has been arranged with China that at trade marts specified in Article II of the aforesaid Convention, Great Britain shall be entitled to lay down telegraph lines connecting with India," for the passage beginning "but at the trade marts" to end of Article is proposed by Satow as a compromise.

Inclosure 2 in No. 70.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

April 14, 1906.

THIBET negotiations. Adhesion Agreement. Your telegram of the 3rd instant.

Modifications proposed by Satow are, in the circumstances, accepted by me. Shape has requested that communications for him may be sent through Henderson, Commissioner of Chinese Customs, Calcutta ; he has left Calcutta for Darjeeling district.

[13568]

No. 71.

Sir E. Satow to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 83.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, April 21, 1906.

THIBET. The probable date of signature of the Adhesion Agreement is the 27th instant.

Subject to your approval, I propose to arrange that the ratifications shall be exchanged in London three months after the date of signature.

3rd May is the date on which I should like to start for England ; on the way to Shanghai I wish to visit the Yang-tsze Viceroys.

[14183]

No. 72.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Spring-Rice.

(No. 183.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 24, 1906.

I TOLD Count Benckendorff that it was inaccurately stated in the "Times" to-day that a Treaty had been signed at Peking by British and Chinese Representatives concerning Thibet.

I hoped that one would be signed ; but I had not heard of its signature yet, and, in any case, the description of the contents of the Treaty as contained in the "Times" was inaccurate and misleading. I could not tell him what the actual text of the Treaty was, because amendments had been suggested by the Chinese and verbal alterations had been under discussion at Peking. But I told him that the purport of it was to secure the adhesion of China to the Convention established with Thibet in 1904. The Treaty with China would not alter what had been previously done. It would contain an engagement on our part not to encroach on Thibetan territory, nor to interfere in the government of Thibet, the Government of China also undertaking not to allow any foreign State to interfere in the government or internal administration of Thibet. It would also be to the effect that we did not seek for ourselves any of the concessions

mentioned in Article IX of the Convention with Thibet which were denied to any other State or to the subjects of any other State. The Convention with China would not alter the amount of the Thibetan indemnity in any way, nor mention it as stated in the "Times."

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

[14045]

No. 73.

Sir E. Satow to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 25.)

(No. 87.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, April 25, 1906.

THIBET Adhesion Convention.

Please refer to my telegram No. 83 of the 21st instant.

Mr. T'ang Shao Yi proposes that the signature should take place on the 27th instant at 3 P.M.

I only await your approval of the place and the time limit for the exchange of ratifications.

[14190]

No. 74.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 26.)

Sir,

India Office, April 25, 1906.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to acknowledge Mr. Campbell's letter of the 23rd instant, and, in reply, to say that he concurs in Sir E. Grey's proposal to approve Sir E. Satow's suggestion that the exchange of ratifications of the Anglo-Chinese Agreement regarding Thibet shall take place at London three months after signature.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[14408]

No. 75.

Question asked in the House of Commons, April 26, 1906.

Sir Henry Cotton,—To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether he is now in a position to make any statement regarding the negotiations between His Majesty's Government and the Chinese Government for the adhesion of China to the Thibetan Convention of the 7th September, 1904.

Answer.

The negotiations with the Chinese Government are still proceeding at Peking, and I hope may soon be brought to a conclusion; when that is so, the result will be made known. Meanwhile, in view of statements which have appeared recently, I may say that the negotiations do not contemplate an alteration of the Thibet Convention.

[14302]

No. 76.

Sir E. Satow to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 27.)

(No. 88.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, April 27, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to report that the signature, in accordance with your instructions, of the Thibetan Adhesion Agreement took place this afternoon.

I will send a copy to the Government of India, and forward one original to you by bag which leaves Shanghae on the 15th May.

[14389]

No. 77.

Sir E. Satow to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 28.)

(No. 89.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, April 28, 1906.

THIBETAN indemnity.

Please refer to the telegram from the Secretary of State for India to the India Government of the 31st January, also to your telegram No. 63 of the 30th March, and my reply No. 63 of the next day.

China's offer to pay off the indemnity in three annual instalments was again referred to by Mr. T'ang yesterday after the signature of the Adhesion Convention.

I told him that the proposal might, I thought, be accepted by His Majesty's Government, but that no instructions had been sent to me on the point. T'ang accordingly requested me to communicate above offer to you.

[14442]

No. 78.

Mr. Spring-Rice to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 75.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

St. Petersburg, April 29, 1906.

THIBET. Referring to my telegram No. 74 of to-day's date.

In the private letter to me, inclosing the Memorandum which I have telegraphed to you, Count Lamsdorff expresses the wish to talk the matter over with me in our next interview. This will be on the 2nd proximo, the date of his next reception.

I venture to point out that the Russian subjects who are to escort the Dalai Lama back to Lhasa must have been armed with the knowledge and consent of the Russian Government, and that they are not improbably Russian soldiers, as many Buriats serve in the regular army. In view of this I venture to suggest that, in my approaching conversation with Count Lamsdorff, it might be advisable that I should be instructed to make an explicit reference to the condition attached to Lord Lansdowne's assurance as to non-intervention in Thibet, which he made to the Russian Ambassador on the 2nd June, 1905.

[14681]

No. 79.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 30.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 27th April, relative to the Thibet Adhesion Agreement.

India Office, April 30, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 79.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, April 27, 1906.

THIBET. Your telegram dated the 14th instant.

Satow reports Adhesion Agreement has been signed to-day, the modifications having been approved on the 17th April. Government of India are being furnished with copy. Instructions that exchange of ratifications should take place three months after signature in London have been sent to Satow.

[14696]

No. 80.

Mr. Spring-Rice to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received April 30.)

(No. 76.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

St. Petersburg, April 30, 1906.

IN view of my impending conversation with Count Lamsdorff on the subject of Thibet, I should be grateful if I could be informed whether the Adhesion Agreement with China had been signed.

[14696]

No. 81.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Spring-Rice.

(No. 78.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, April 30, 1906.

IN reply to your telegram No. 76 of the 30th April, the Thibet Adhesion Convention was signed on the 27th instant.* The following communication giving the purport of it was made to the Russian Ambassador on the 24th instant. Our object was not to alter what had previously been done, but to secure the adhesion of China to the Convention with Thibet. It would contain an engagement on the part of the Chinese Government not to allow any foreign State to interfere in the government or internal administration of Thibet, His Majesty's Government undertaking not to encroach on Thibetan territory nor to interfere in the government of Thibet.

It would also be to the effect that by Article IX of the Thibet Convention we did not seek for ourselves concessions denied to any other State or its subjects. No mention was made of the indemnity, which remained unaltered.

[14747]

No. 82.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Spring-Rice.

(No. 79.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, April 30, 1906.

I HAVE explained to Count Benckendorff the provisions of the Adhesion Convention. I told him that there were some verbal modifications which had been left to Sir E. Satow to negotiate, but that we had not yet received the actual text of the Convention from Peking, and I could not therefore give it to him.

I also remarked that, while very much appreciating the friendly manner in which the information about the Dalai Lama had been communicated by the Russian Government, I feared that the mere fact of his return to Lhasa would give rise to trouble, and that if he went accompanied by an armed escort of Russian subjects he would be sure to give provocation and create disturbance, which might lead to renewed interference. Everything was now quiet in Thibet, and our last wish was to interfere with it.

[14389]

No. 83.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 30, 1906.

WITH reference to the letter from this Office of the 2nd instant in regard to the payment of the Thibetan indemnity, I am directed by Secretary Sir E. Grey to transmit herewith copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Minister at Peking,* submitting, at the request of the Chinese Commissioner Tang, the proposal that China should pay off the indemnity in three annual instalments.

Sir E. Grey proposes, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State for India, to instruct Sir E. Satow that he may inform the Chinese Government that His Majesty's

* No. 77.

Government will have no objection to the payment of the indemnity in three instalments, and that instructions will be sent to the Government of India to accept the payment of the first of the three instalments from the Sechung Shape.

In the event of Mr. Morley concurring in the above reply, I am to suggest that the Government of India may be informed accordingly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) F. A. CAMPBELL.

[14825]

No. 84.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 1.)

Sir,

India Office, April 30, 1906.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to acknowledge Mr. Campbell's letter of the 30th instant, relative to the communication made by Count Lamsdorff to Mr. Spring-Rice regarding the escort of thirty or forty armed Buriats, who are escorting the Dalai Lama on his return to Lhasa.

In reply, I am to request that you will inform Sir E. Grey that Mr. Morley concurs in the instructions which it is proposed to send to Mr. Spring-Rice as to the communication to be made to the Russian Government on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

[15040]

No. 85.

Question asked in the House of Lords, May 1, 1906.

The Marquess of Lansdowne.—To ask whether the Chinese Government has given adhesion to the Thibet Convention of 1904, and if the Under-Secretary could state the terms upon which the adhesion was given.

Answer.

In reply to the question, of which I received private notice, I am glad to be able to inform your Lordships that negotiations have been for some time proceeding with regard to the adhesion of China to the Convention between this country and Thibet, and have proved successful. The Convention between Great Britain and China, which was signed at Peking on the 27th ultimo, secures the adhesion of China to the Convention established with Thibet in 1904. The text of the Convention has not yet been received, but it will be laid before Parliament in due course. The Convention does not, however, alter the arrangements arrived at under the Convention with Thibet as confirmed by the Government of India. It contains an engagement on our part not to encroach on Thibetan territory nor to interfere in the government of Thibet, the Government of China undertaking not to allow any foreign State to interfere in the government or internal administration of Thibet. It also states that we do not seek for ourselves any of the concessions mentioned in Article IX of the Convention with Thibet which were denied to any other State or to the subjects of any other State. The Convention with China does not alter the amount of the Thibetan indemnity in any way.

[14825]

No. 86.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir E. Satow.

(No. 87.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, May 1, 1906.

WE are informed by the Russian Government, who think they cannot possibly object, that forty armed Russian Buriats, fearing for the safety of the Dalai Lama, have accompanied him on his return journey to Lhasa.

I have informed the Russian Ambassador that we had no wish to interfere in Thibet, which is now quiet, and I explained the provisions of the Adhesion Convention

to his Excellency. I said, however, that the Dalai Lama would be sure to create disturbance, which might lead to renewed interference, if he returned with an armed Russian escort.

I have directed His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburg to state that the presence of Russian escort beyond the frontier of Thibet will, in our opinion, be objectionable, on the ground that it will constitute an interference in the internal affairs of that country on the part of Russia. He will, at the same time, express the hope that the Mongolian frontier will not be crossed by the armed Buriats.

[14825]

No. 87.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Spring-Rice.

(No. 80.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, May 1, 1906.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 79 of the 30th April, and your telegrams Nos. 74 and 75 of the 29th April, relative to the return of the Dalai Lama to Thibet, you should inform Count Lamsdorff in the sense of my communication to the Russian Ambassador, and say, at the same time, that the presence of a Russian escort beyond the frontier of Thibet would, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, be objectionable, as constituting an interference in the internal affairs of that country on the part of Russia. The hope should, at the same time, be expressed that immediate orders may be sent to ensure that the Mongolian frontier shall not be passed by the Buriat escort.

[14870]

No. 88.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 2.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in letters from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 15th, 22nd, and 29th March, relative to the visit of the Sechung Shape to Calcutta and the payment of the Thibet indemnity.

India Office, May 1, 1906.

Inclosure 1 in No. 88.

Thibetan Minister Sechung to Government of India.

Calcutta, 19th day, 1st moon, Fire-horse year

(March 14, 1906).

(Translation.)

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I arrived in Calcutta yesterday, for the purpose of arranging for the payment of the indemnity. I would be infinitely obliged to you if you will kindly inform me at what place the payment is to be tendered, and by whom it will be received. I left Lhasa two months ago, but my progress was retarded by the heavy snow.

Inclosure 2 in No. 88.

Government of India to Thibetan Minister Sechung.

Fort William, March 20, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter, dated the 14th March, 1906, informing the Government of India of your arrival in Calcutta, and inquiring at what place payment of the Thibetan indemnity should be tendered by the Lhasa Government and by whom it will be received.

2. I brought your letter to the notice of his Excellency the Viceroy on his return to Calcutta, and, in reply, I am directed to say that the Lhasa Government have

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already been informed, under Article VI of the Treaty of Lhasa, that the first instalment of the indemnity, which was due on the 1st January last, should be paid at Gyantse to the British Trade Agent at that place. I am to request that the payment may be made accordingly at Gyantse.

3. I regret to hear that you should have suffered during your long journey to Calcutta from the inclemency of the weather.

Inclosure 3 in No. 88.

Frontier Confidential Report No. 44.

(Extract.)

Sechung Shape.—I left Chumbi on the 4th March with Sechung Shape and his party. We arrived at Kalimpong on the 9th March and were met there by Mr. V. C. Henderson. As the Shape refused to travel down the Teesta Valley the original arrangements for transport were adhered to, and the party continued their journey to Darjeeling. Mr. Henderson paid all expenses beyond Kalimpong. At Darjeeling the whole of the transport was paid for, but not without one or two attempts to obtain a reduction of the total cost—the addition was said to be wrong or “tengas” meant and not rupees, and the proposal to pay on the return journey was once more put forward. The Thibetans have found the necessity of paying for their transport very little to their liking. At the same time, it has had the effect of convincing them that the country south of the Tang La is not at present administered by their officials. Before the Shape’s party left Lhasa they believed that free transport would be available up to the railway station, which was supposed to be within one day’s march of Yatung.

March 12, 1906.

Memorandum.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department for information.

(Signed)

W. L. CAMPBELL, *Lieutenant,*
Assistant Political Officer at Chumbi.

March 18, 1906.

Inclosure 4 in No. 88.

Captain O'Connor to Government of India.

Calcutta, March 24, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a Thibetan letter in original, addressed to Sir Louis Dane, which I received yesterday evening from the Sechung Shape, and I inclose also the English translation which accompanied the letter, and my own translation made from the Thibetan.

2. Might I ask to receive a copy of my translation of the letter to attach to my file of papers regarding the Shape’s visit to Calcutta; and might I venture also to ask to be allowed to keep the Shape’s original letter in Thibetan? This letter will be of value to me for use in a small publication treating upon Thibetan official correspondence which I am endeavouring to prepare.

Inclosure 5 in No. 88.

Thibetan Minister Sechung to Government of India.

15, Kyd Street, March 23, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, notifying me that the instalment of the indemnity should be paid to the British Trade Representative at Gyantse, and stating that the Lhasa authorities have already been informed of this decision.

In a letter received from the Political Officer at Sikkim, dated the 14th of the 10th moon, the amount of the first instalment of the indemnity is stated to be 1 lakh of rupees.

Article VI of the Lhasa Convention fixed the amount of the indemnity at 75 lakhs of rupees, payable by yearly instalments of 1 lakh; but subsequently as an act of grace the British Government modified that clause, and reduced the indemnity to 25 lakhs of rupees, payable in three yearly instalments.

The amount of the indemnity now due is, therefore, 8,33,333 rupees, and not 1,00,000 rupees, as stated in the letter received from the Political Officer in Sikkim.

I have now the honour to request that you will kindly give me a letter to the British Trade Representative at Gyantse authorizing him to receive that sum from me—viz., 8,33,333 rupees.

You are aware that the coinage of my country is not current outside Thibet; I propose therefore, for the mutual convenience and benefit of both our Governments, that the payments of the indemnity shall be made by the Thibetan Delegate to the British Trade Representative at Gyantse in the form of a draft, payable to the Indian Government, on the Calcutta branch of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank.

I trust that this proposal will meet with the approval of your Government; and I venture to beg that an early reply may be vouchsafed to this letter to enable me to complete the necessary arrangements in Calcutta, and return as soon as possible to Thibet. With scarf, 29th of the first Thibetan moon.

Inclosure 6 in No. 88.

Thibetan Minister Sechung to Government of India.

(Translation.)

March 23, 1906.

I HAVE received your letter of the 20th March, with thanks, regarding the payment of the first instalment of the indemnity at Gyantse, in accordance with the communication formerly sent to the Thibetan Government. In accordance with a letter received from Mr. White, dated the 14th of the 10th month it appears that the first instalment of the indemnity amounts to 1 lakh of rupees. In the VIth Clause of the Lhasa Convention it is laid down that an annual instalment of 1 lakh of rupees to a total of 75 lakhs must be paid, but afterwards the British Government having reduced the amount, it appeared from a letter that 25 lakhs remained to be cleared off in three annual instalments, and the total of the first instalment thus amounts to 8,33,333 rupees, and not to 1 lakh as stated by Mr. White in his letter. Now, be so kind as to give to me, the Minister, a letter authorizing the British Representative residing at Gyantse to receive the first instalment of the indemnity amounting to 8,33,333 rupees. As our Thibetan money does not pass current in other countries, and for the convenience of both parties, your Government may perhaps agree to a proposal that the Thibetan Representative may pay over the sum due to the British Representative at Gyantse by means of a cheque (? draft) on the Calcutta branch of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank. Be so good as to let me have an early reply, so that I may be able to return quickly to Thibet on the completion of the necessary business at Calcutta. I inclose scarf. Dated the 29th of the 1st month, Thibetan date—i.e., the 23rd March, 1906, English date.

Inclosure 7 in No. 88.

Captain O'Connor to Government of India.

March 16, 1906.

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your letter, dated the 14th March, 1906, I have the honour to forward herewith a translation of the inclosed Thibetan paper. This paper is evidently a copy of a letter from the Amban to the Ti-Rimpoche. It appears to have been hastily made, is badly written, and contains several mistakes and misspellings.

Inclosure 8 in No. 88.

Letter from the Amban at Lhasa to the Ti-Rimpoche.

(Translation.)

This letter is to inform you as follows :—

I have received a telegram from the office of the Chinese Commissioner in Calcutta* to the following effect :—

“I acknowledge the receipt of a Secret telegram from the great official Yu (the Amban) regarding the payment of the indemnity. The actual indemnity, having been reduced by two-thirds, amounts to 250 times 10,000 rupees (*i.e.*, 25 lakhs), and will be cleared off in three instalments. The limit of time for the payment of the first instalment having now passed, the English officials have sent a letter to the Thibetans urging (payment), so the Thibetan Government should appoint officials to go to Hindustan, where they should discuss the matter properly with Trang-tsen-dzen (Chang) and take the money, in accordance with the telegram which has been received at this office, and these officials should hand over the money to the English officials. Be so good as to send me a telegram when you have instructed the Thibetans that they must respect this order.”

With reference to the details of this matter, as the great Kingdom (China) has now made ready the indemnity, the Thibetan Government must obey the instructions contained in the telegram from the office of the Chinese Commissioner at Calcutta and at once appoint a Kalon (Shape) and some officials who shall proceed rapidly to Hindustan, and having approached the great Minister Trang-tsen-dzen with respect, shall explain to him that their business is to take the money in accordance with the telegram dispatched from the office of the Chinese Commissioner at Calcutta; and having handed it over to the English officials, they shall quickly complete and settle their business. In accordance with what I have written above in this letter, you, the Gaden Ti-Rimpoche, must obey this order and carry out your duty, as the matter has become an urgent one, and you must immediately appoint officials, and they must start without the delay of one hour. On hearing from you that you have received my letter I shall at once dispatch a telegram. See that you fail not in the matter.

Dated the 29th day of the 12th month of the 31st year of the reign of the Emperor Kwangsu, the 22nd February, 1906.†

Inclosure 9 in No. 88.

*Mr. MacDonald to Government of India.**Darjeeling, March 12, 1906.*

I HAVE the honour to return herewith the two remaining papers in Thibetan, with translations.

Memoranda.

(1.)

On the 10th day of the 9th month of the 31st year of Kwangsu's reign, I received a telegram from the Chinese Minister for Foreign Affairs stating that, owing to the illness of the Minister Thang in Hindustan, where he was carrying on negotiations in respect of the Thibetan Treaty, the Emperor of China has permitted him to return to his own country, and appointed Tang Yin Thang in his place to carry on further negotiations. That immediately on the appointment of the Chinese Consul for India the negotiations will be taken up, and on its termination it will be ratified accordingly.

* Literally, “the person who carries out the duties in connection with England and China.” The usual word for “Commissioner” is not used.

† There must be some mistake about this date, as on the 22nd February the Shape was well on his way to India. It should be, perhaps, the 29th day of the 11th month, which would be the 23rd January of our calendar. This seems most probable, as the Shape started early in February from Lhasa.

That the two Articles contained in the Treaty which was signed by the British and Thibetans in respect to the payment of the war indemnity and establishment of the trade-marts cannot be altered; that the indemnity fixed in the VIth Article of the Treaty was reduced to 25 lakhs of rupees, which is equal to about 12,00,000 Chinese silver coins; that the amount is to be paid in three instalments within three years punctually on the first day of the first month of the English year; that the first instalment, amounting to 4,10,000 Chinese silver coins, is to be paid through the Kingdom of Tung-go (China) on the seventh day of the third month of the current year, but the Thibetans have not succeeded in securing the required amount; that trade-marts are to be established at Yatung, Gyantse, and Karakheng, and that the British troops stationed at Chumbi will be withdrawn on the expiry of three years after the establishment of the trade-marts according to the VIIth Article. That, as they will withdraw their troops soon after we establish the trade-mart, it is necessary to ascertain carefully the existing conditions about those places, and do everything as agreed upon, after due consideration, according to the requisition of India for the establishment of the trade-marts in the different places. That, as there is much dealings in trade in Thibet, it may cause an insurrection if there be no Thibetan officer. It is therefore necessary that such an officer should be appointed at once to superintend the affairs, and thus fulfil the conditions of the two Articles as above noted. The reply will be sent by wire immediately, and final instructions will then be issued.

That I, the Chinese Resident in Lhasa, find from the records that, when the British troops entered into Lhasa, a Treaty was signed in which the Government of Thibet bound themselves to pay the war indemnity amounting to 75 lakhs of rupees by instalments. During the 11th month the Government of Thibet wrote a letter, and in reply the British trade agent at Gyantse informed them that the indemnity has been reduced to 25 lakhs from 75 lakhs. Thus 50 lakhs have been taken off the original amount. The amount is reasonable and may be forthcoming. This amount of 25 lakhs of rupees is to be paid in three instalments—that is, 4,10,000 Chinese silver coins each time. It is much more easy to pay this amount, and the first instalment will soon be due for payment. It is hoped that the Government of Thibet will make the necessary arrangement and keep the money ready beforehand; but if the money be not paid in due time according to the Treaty, they will lay the blame at your doors, and increase the amount of the indemnity and inflict a heavy fine. Besides this, it may be a cause of quarrel, and probably be difficult to remedy the defect in the future time. And whereas the British have laid much stress in the establishment of the trade-marts, it is advisable to begin the operations at once, so that there may be no cause for complaint. If the Government of Thibet possess a reliable Thibetan officer, then they should select him at once, and send him for establishing the trade-marts in the different places. Everything should be done after due consideration according to the requisition of India as mutually agreed upon.

Moreover, when the trade-marts are established, and all the other conditions are fulfilled, great benefit will be derived through trade for a long time. If India also abide by the Treaty, and do not violate the terms of the Treaty on their part, good will result out of the transaction. But if the Thibetans keep the matter hanging for a long time and violate the conditions agreed upon, the British Commissioner will come again and finish the work himself, rendering it difficult to take any further action in the matter afterwards. This letter is sent to the Ti-Rimpoche for his information and guidance. It is requested that he will hold a consultation in the matter, and send me an early reply after due consideration. On receipt of this I will send a wire to the Chinese Minister for Foreign Affairs for his orders. Bear in mind that there should be no delay in the matter, and everything should be done promptly.

Dated the 12th day of the 9th month of the 31st year Kwangsu's reign.

(2)

The National Assembly of Thibet, including the lamas and laymen headed by the three chief monasteries, submitted a Petition stating that in respect of the war indemnity they were compelled to put their seals on the Treaty according to the wishes of the British officers; that Thibet is a small country, and her income is also very poor; that she has all along been faithfully performing sacrificial ceremony for the benefit of the Emperor of China; that there is no hope of Thibet being able to pay the war indemnity; that she therefore begs that the Emperor of China will be graciously pleased to make

the payment; that as no Thibetan Representative could be appointed she will abide by Hrin Amban's Treaty relating to the trade-marts; that the amount of custom and other income collected in connection with the trade-marts be also applied towards the expenses of the sacrificial ceremony; and that the Government of Thibet accordingly pray that the loss sustained by them may be made good in this way.

The Chinese Resident in Lhasa considered the matter most carefully. They are aware of the fact that ordinarily the demands made by them are not in accordance with the usual custom. If he gives a reply to all the Articles separately it may not be acceptable in all quarters. As regards the boundary dispute between the British and the Thibetans, the latest order was that peace has been concluded and no one should create any further trouble. The Chinese Resident bore the entire responsibility, and after much careful consideration issued strict injunctions one after the other advising them to make no trouble in respect of the boundary; but the Government of Thibet, without ascertaining what power they possessed, were inclined to make war. At last they did make war. Had they trained up their soldiers as best they could beforehand, they could not have suffered loss and defeat at Gyantse. The reason was that they, without any forethought, collected a great number of troops from all directions who had no training and sent them to fight their enemies, and as a consequence they were defeated. That the British troops not only gained victory but marched into Lhasa by force. There was no hope of things remaining as they were before, and much harm would have resulted except in some minor things, but as the name of the Emperor of China is held in high esteem, the British Government could not forsake the path of agreement existing between the two Governments. Consequently they left the Dalai Lama's palace, the upper and lower temples, the monasteries, and all the other places in Lhasa intact as they were before and did no damage of any description. Moreover, they withdrew their troops and signed the Treaty. The lamas and the lay community of Thibet, after due consideration, put their respective seals on the Treaty in the Dalai Lama's palace on Potala Hill. But the Chinese Resident did not put his seal on it.

As regards the war indemnity, the entire community of Thibet has promised to pay it. The British troops have been withdrawn, and the Thibetans are enjoying peace; but if they do not fulfil the conditions agreed upon, the mutual agreement may be of no use. The universal law of the kingdoms is that a Power may claim possession of the land as far as they come after defeating their opponents; and if the British had remained in possession of the land after their entry into Lhasa, they might have confiscated the property of Thibet in satisfaction of the war indemnity. In that case, a little more than what is stated in the Treaty will have been recouped, and they would have got something more if the property be valued. Will the lamas and the lay community of Thibet pay (the indemnity) or not? In the end they appear to have changed their minds. They do not consider the main points of the case regarding their own strength, whether they be big or small. The request which they have made, praying that the Emperor of China should pay the indemnity, clearly shows that they are inclined to throw off the responsibilities imposed on them. The Government of Thibet further keep the matter pending, which goes to show that they have no mind to endeavour to meet the emergencies as if they were not responsible for them.

That as the boundary dispute and the payment of the war indemnity have been brought about entirely through the action of the Thibetan community, they should not leave the matter unsettled and defer it any longer. There would have been no trouble of this nature had they listened to the advices of the Emperor of China, and kept the peace. Fearing lest the Emperor of China would be greatly displeased at the conduct of the Thibetan people, and issue strict injunctions on them, the Chinese Resident in Lhasa did not venture to submit a Petition to His Majesty. How can it be possible that the entire community of Thibet should be saying such vain things according to their own pleasure? Again, they state that they (have sold) grain from the Government depôts, offerings of the monasteries, various kinds of grain from different places, and the "dzongs" (forts), and other property and live-stock belonging to the Thibetan Government and other officers, the total price of which is estimated to be about a little more than 2,000,000 ngu-sang (1 ngu-sang = 2-4 rupees), and wanted to take counsel whether they should ask the British to pay this amount; but, finding it difficult to do so, they request that the collection of the customs be made over to them to cover their loss. This is an unreasonable demand, and a foolish desire which is not in accordance with the existing custom. The universal law existing among the various Governments is that when two Governments make war against one another, the party who loses the battle must pay indemnity to the conqueror. Therefore, if the Thibetans had succeeded in gaining victory and driving the British into the Indian frontier, they would have paid

the war indemnity according to the existing custom. In that case the Thibetans might have demanded ten times the actual amount, and the British would have been compelled to pay the same. This time, however, the Thibetans have been defeated, and they can make no demand to indemnify them against the loss sustained by them, inasmuch as such a procedure is not in accordance with the existing custom. It is certain that the other nations will laugh at them.

As regards the collection of the customs from the different parts of the country, there is no usage authorizing the subjects to collect customs on the revenue of the Chinese Government. As the Thibetans generally obey the laws of the Emperor of China, no customs could be collected by them in the different places in contravention of the existing law. It appears from the records that formerly, in the 18th year of the Emperor Kwangsu's reign, the Thibetan Government submitted a Petition to Mr. Hrin, the then Chinese Resident at Lhassa. At that time a trade-mart had been established in the land belonging to a Mongolian named Tshu-phethu, and the President of the Mongol Custom-house realized the customs under his supervision. Their Petition was, therefore, rejected. The Government of Thibet is aware of the Treaty ratified by Mr. Hrin, the then Chinese Resident, in respect to the trade-marts. How is it that they now disregard Mr. Hrin, the Chinese Resident, regarding the collection of the customs? The Chinese Resident at Lhassa carefully examined the records, and finds that the collection of the customs within its own boundary is not authorized. The existing rule of the Government is that all the questions are to be decided by an assembly of persons, and, as many years have passed away, it cannot be altered now. The idea of having a National Assembly to talk over matters is that the members will endeavour to further the cause of Thibet.

Now, this is a friendly hint—the British will act according to the existing custom in everything after due consideration. They will not make an unnecessary demand for the small and big things without considering the matter fully, and let their efforts be in vain. This intercourse between Thibet and the foreigners has made everything very important at the present time. The Ministers have a responsible position to fill. Having been placed in such a responsible position, they ought to use their discretion and act to the best of their ability. But they have not used their common-sense and acted wisely according to the prevailing custom when the dispute arose about the boundary. Instead of doing this, they listened to the people, and had no courage to act independently. They made the lamas and the lay community to make demands which are difficult to obtain, and did not care for the good fruits of kindness. It seems better to return the original application, but the Chinese Resident at Lhassa has good reasons to think that it may be possible that the lamas and the laymen of Thibet were not well acquainted with the facts in issue, and that the Ministers have not given sufficient time in considering the matter. Under these circumstances this letter, written both in Chinese and Thibetan characters, is sent to the Ti-Rimpoche, for his information, and communication to the lamas and the lay community, and the Ministers of Thibet, without delay. He must explain the whole subject carefully, and consult them in the matter. On receipt of his reply, the Chinese Resident will issue the necessary instructions after due consideration. Do not fail in this.

Dated the 25th day of the 9th month of the 31st year of Kwangsu's reign.

[15362]

No. 89.

Question asked in the House of Commons, May 2, 1906.

Sir Henry Cotton,—To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Chinese Government have accorded their adhesion to the Thibetan Agreement of the 7th September, 1904; and, if so, whether he is in a position to announce the terms of this adhesion.

Answer.

The Convention between Great Britain and China which was signed at Peking on the 27th April secures the adhesion of China to the Convention established with Thibet in 1904.

The text of the Convention has not yet been received, but it will be laid before

Parliament in due course. The Convention does not, however, alter the arrangements arrived at under the Convention with Thibet, as confirmed by the Government of India. It contains an engagement on our part not to encroach on Thibetan territory nor to interfere in the Government of Thibet, the Government of China undertaking not to allow any foreign State to interfere in the Government or internal administration of Thibet. It also states that we do not seek for ourselves any of the Concessions mentioned in Article IX of the Convention with Thibet which were denied to any other State, or to the subjects of any other State.

The Convention with China does not alter the amount of the Thibetan indemnity in any way.

[14939]

No. 90.

Mr. Spring-Rice to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 79.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

St. Petersburg, May 2, 1906.

DALAI LAMA.

I have made communication to Minister of Foreign Affairs in sense of your preceding telegrams.

Count Lamsdorff says that action of Russian Government was due to the insistence of the Russian Buddhists, who feared for safety of Lama, and that he was entirely opposed to any intervention in whatever form. The Government had permitted the volunteers to act as escort, because the local authorities feared an outbreak among Buriats if anything befell the Lama.

He is personally under the impression (although he is not certain) that the escort was not to proceed beyond the frontier, but he will communicate by telegraph immediately with Russian Minister at Peking and Russian Consul at Urga, to arrange if possible that, as soon as the escort reach the frontier, the Thibetans themselves should be put in charge of the Lama, and the Russian subjects return.

The Lama, according to Count Lamsdorff, has been made clearly to understand that he was expected to remain quiet, and was not to reckon on support or assistance on the part of the Russian Government.

[15060]

No. 91.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 3.)

Sir,

India Office, May 3, 1906.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to acknowledge receipt of Mr. Campbell's letter of the 30th April, respecting the payment of the Thibetan indemnity.

In reply, I am to say that Mr. Morley concurs in Sir E. Grey's proposed instruction to His Majesty's Minister at Peking, that he should inform the Chinese Government that His Majesty's Government have no objection to the payment of the indemnity in three instalments; and that the Government of India will be instructed to receive the first instalment from the Sechung Shape.

I am also to inclose, for Sir E. Grey's information, a paraphrase of a telegram which Mr. Morley has sent to the Government of India on the subject. It appears from the Viceroy's telegram of the 14th April that the Sechung Shape has left Calcutta. Mr. Morley, therefore, has instructed the Government of India that, if the Shape should prefer to hand a cheque for the amount of the first instalment to the Government of India's Agent at Gyantse, that course may be adopted.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure in No. 91.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, May 3, 1906.

THIBET indemnity. My telegrams of 5th and 27th ultimo, and yours of 26th March and 14th April.

His Majesty's Government see no objection to acceptance of cheque on Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, now that Adhesion Agreement has been signed, and if Shape has not returned to Calcutta and prefers to pay cheque into hands of Gyantse Agent, we agree to adoption of this course.

Instructions have been sent to His Majesty's Minister at Peking to inform Chinese Government that payment of indemnity in three instalments is not objected to by His Majesty's Government, and that first instalment will be accepted from Sechung Shape.

[16094]

No. 92.

Question asked in the House of Commons, May 3, 1906.

Mr. Ashley,—To ask the Secretary of State for India if he can now lay upon the Table further papers with reference to the Agreement with Thibet.

Answer.

Papers will be laid as soon as the ratifications of the Convention for the adhesion of China to the Thibet Convention have been exchanged, but the answer given yesterday has already explained the nature of the Convention with China.

[15069]

No. 93.

Mr. Carnegie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 3.)

(No. 90. Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, May 3, 1906.

THIBET.

T'ang Shao-yi, to whom I communicated confidentially the contents of your telegram No. 87, repeated the information to the other members of the Wai-wu Pu.

I am now informed that Duke P'u was dispatched last month by the Chinese Government on a special mission to the Dalai Lama. The Duke was accompanied by another member of the Imperial Family; their instructions were to warn the Dalai Lama to take no action likely to provoke any sort of complications with other Powers, and to refrain from intriguing with Russian officials. They are to inform him that removal from his position as Dalai Lama would be the result if he should fail to respect this warning.

Wai-wu Pu assure me that China will take all necessary steps, and will not allow the Dalai Lama to create any disturbance in Thibet or to return to Lhasa for the present.

[14939]

No. 94.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir E. Satow.

(No. 88.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, May 3, 1906.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 87 of the 1st instant, relative to the return of the Dalai Lama to Thibet, Russian Government state that they will instruct Russian Minister at Peking and Consul at Urga to arrange, if possible, that escort should hand over charge to Thibetans at frontier, as they are absolutely opposed to intervention. Dalai Lama has been informed that he cannot count on Russian support, and that he must keep quiet.

[1640]

T

[15094]

No. 95.

Mr. Spring-Rice to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 290.)

Sir,

St. Petersburg, April 30, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith copy of a note which I have received from Count Lamsdorff, inclosing an *aide-mémoire* relative to the movements of the Dalai Lama and his return to Lhassa accompanied by an armed escort of Buriats.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

CECIL SPRING-RICE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 95.

Count Lamsdorff to Mr. Spring-Rice.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

Samedi, le 15 (28) Avril, 1906.

N'AYANT pas eu depuis bien longtemps le plaisir de vous voir, je me décide à vous faire parvenir ci-joint un petit aide-mémoire relatif à la question dont il me tenait à cœur de vous parler et à laquelle je me réserve de revenir à notre première entrevue.

Mille hommages bien sincèrement dévoués.

(Signé)

LAMSDORFF.

Inclosure 2 in No. 95.

Aide-Mémoire.

FORCÉ par la marche des événements en l'année 1904 de quitter le Tibet, le Grand Prêtre Bouddhiste s'était réfugié d'abord à Ourga et puis dans la localité du nom de Van en Mongolie. En raison de la proximité de sa résidence temporaire de la frontière de l'Empire, une grande quantité de nos sujets, professant la foi Bouddhiste, mus par un sentiment religieux, s'étaient rendus auprès du Dalai Lama.

Les conditions exceptionnelles dans lesquelles le Grand Prêtre avait dû faire son voyage à travers les immenses déserts de la Chine pour arriver jusqu'au nord de la Mongolie ne manquèrent pas de susciter chez les pèlerins des doutes sur la sécurité pendant son voyage de retour qu'il venait d'entreprendre. Quelques Bouriates, au nombre de trente à quarante hommes, allèrent même jusqu'à proposer leurs services en qualité de gardes, et s'étant munis d'armes le suivirent.

Le Gouvernement Russe ne crut point possible d'objecter, considérant cette décision comme dictée par un sentiment plus que compréhensible, et croyant d'un autre côté qu'elle contribuerait à hâter la rentrée du Dalai Lama à Lhassa, ce qui serait hautement désirable pour le rétablissement de l'ordre au Tibet.

Guidé par un sincère désir de tâcher d'écarter toute cause de malentendu entre les deux Puissances par des explications directes et franches, le Ministre Impérial des Affaires Étrangères tient à porter ce qui précède à la connaissance de l'Ambassade Britannique.

[15131]

No. 96.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 4.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 2nd instant, relative to Russia and the Dalai Lama.

India Office, May 3, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 96.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, May 2, 1906.

HIS Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburg has been privately informed by Count Lamsdorff that thirty or forty armed Buriats are escorting Dalai Lama on return from Urga, and that, in view of desirability of early return of Dalai Lama to Lhasa, Russian Government has not thought it possible to object. Russian Ambassador has been told by Sir E. Grey that His Majesty's Government fear Lama's return, especially if Russian escort accompanies him, will cause trouble, and that renewed interference on our part, which is the last thing His Majesty's Government desire in the present quiet condition of Thibet, might thus be occasioned. Sir E. Grey said that friendly manner in which Russian Government had informed us regarding Lama was appreciated by His Majesty's Government.

Instructions to address Russian Foreign Minister in this sense have been sent to Spring-Rice, who is to add that His Majesty's Government consider that presence of Russian escort beyond frontier of Thibet would be objectionable, as it would constitute interference by Russia in internal affairs of Thibet, and also to request that immediate orders be sent to insure that the escort of Buriats shall not proceed beyond Mongolian frontier.

On the 1st instant Foreign Office conveyed information in sense of above to Sir E. Satow.

[15060]

No. 97.

Sir Edward Grey to Mr. Carnegie.

(No. 89.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, May 4, 1906.

PLEASE refer to Sir E. Satow's telegram No. 89 of the 28th ultimo relative to the payment of the Thibetan indemnity.

You should inform the Chinese Government that His Majesty's Government agree to accept the offer to pay the whole of the indemnity in three instalments, and that the first instalment will be accepted from the Shape either by cheque, handed to the British Commercial Agent at Gyantse, or by cheque to the Government of India, drawn on the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank.

[15222]

No. 98.

Sir E. Satow to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 127.)

Sir,

Peking, March 21, 1906.

I HAD the honour to telegraph to you on the 11th January a translation of a draft Convention relating to Thibet, which Mr. T'ang Shao-yi left with me on the previous day with a request from Prince Ch'ing that I should communicate it to His Majesty's Government. In another telegram of the same date I commented on this draft, and suggested certain alterations. I also said that I had made it clear to Mr. T'ang that I had no authority to discuss the terms, and could only transmit the Prince's proposals to His Majesty's Government; and I added the opinion that the spontaneous action of the Chinese Government seemed to afford a good opportunity of endeavouring to conclude the matter.

In a telegram of the Indian Government, dated the 23rd January, which was repeated to me, a general concurrence in my comments was expressed, and, subject to alterations suggested by me and to a satisfactory exchange of notes in the sense of Article V of the original draft Convention, the Indian Government said that they saw no objection to accepting the Chinese draft. At the same time, to prevent risk of alteration of the internal administration of Thibet by Chinese to our detriment, they suggested the following prefix to Article II of that draft:—

“So long as the terms of the Convention of the 7th September, 1904, are scrupulously fulfilled, and the present administrative and general status of Thibet is maintained.”

They also said that, if His Majesty's Government were prepared to renew negotiations, it could perhaps be arranged that the Chinese Government should definitely announce the exclusion of the present Dalai Lama from Thibet, and intern him, as was done in the case of a predecessor; and they mentioned that Mr. T'ang in negotiations with Mr. Fraser asserted that the removal of the Dalai Lama and appointment of the Tashi Lama had been carried out.

I thought it necessary to point out at once, in my telegram to you No. 12 of the 25th January, that the second portion of the proposed prefix to Article II would excite the suspicions of China and would certainly be resisted. I said that it closely resembled a stipulation which Russia endeavoured to obtain from the Chinese Government in regard to Manchuria and Mongolia in 1901, and suggested that it might perhaps be put forward in order to be withdrawn in return for an official note undertaking to intern the Dalai Lama. I also mentioned that it would be useful to me to have a copy of the records of the negotiations between Mr. Fraser and Mr. T'ang Shao-yi for purposes of reference.

I was informed by your telegram No. 20 of the 12th February that His Majesty's Government considered that the spontaneous action of the Chinese Government afforded a good opportunity for the settlement of this question, and that the negotiations should take place in Peking. Subject to an exchange of notes in the sense of Article V of the Indian draft, I was instructed that there was no objection to accepting the Chinese draft with the verbal amendments suggested in my telegram No. 8 of the 11th January, including the omission of the words "by arrangement with China" in Article III. I was also instructed that Article III as drafted did not bear out the assurances given to the Russian Chargé d'Affaires by Lord Lansdowne on the 27th September, 1904, and that the necessary amendments should be made to show clearly, as in Article VI of the Indian draft (I read this to mean Article IV of the Indian draft of the 17th April*), that the concessions enumerated in Article IX (d) of the Thibetan Convention were denied to any State, or the subject of any State, other than China. I was informed that I need not press for the introduction of the prefix to Article II which was suggested by the Government of India in their telegram of the 23rd January, if, as I anticipated, the Chinese Government would object to it; but I was asked to sound them as to the definite exclusion from Thibet of the Dalai Lama, if I saw a reasonable prospect of success. It was also mentioned that a record of the negotiations which were carried on at Calcutta with Mr. T'ang Shao-yi was dispatched to me from India on the 18th January.

I utilized the interval until the arrival of this record (it reached here on the 20th February) in endeavouring to ascertain privately, through Prince Ch'ing and Mr. T'ang, the views of the Chinese Government in regard to the exclusion of the Dalai Lama from Thibet, and in my telegram No. 30 of the 24th February I had the honour to report the conclusion I came to as the result of my inquiries. I considered that the question could not be pressed with a reasonable prospect of success. For one thing, two Decrees had been issued in 1905 ordering the Dalai Lama to return to Lhasa—the second followed an interview between him and the new Russian Minister to China, M. Pokotilow, at Urga in June last, and was issued to prevent intrigues—and it appeared to me that the Chinese Government could not easily withdraw these Decrees. There would be also the great difficulty of a suitable place of internment if the Lama, who was little over forty, were condemned to permanent exclusion. According to my information, he had no desire at present to go back to Lhasa, being too afraid of our people, who he believed had designs on his life. On the other hand, I did not think the Chinese would take any step to hurry him back.

In the same telegram I repeated my opinion that the second clause of the prefix to Article II would be objected to, and I proposed that, as the terms of Article I covered the proviso in the first clause, no portion of this preface should be pressed. I also presumed that a preamble was necessary, and suggested that it should be made as short and colourless as possible, or left to me to arrange here.

Your telegram No. 44 of the 9th March informed me that you agreed that no suggestion should be made to the Chinese Government respecting the Dalai Lama, and that I need not press any portion of the prefix to Article II; and I was requested to arrange the preamble on the lines suggested by me.

On the 14th March Mr. T'ang called on me at my request for the purpose of receiving communication of the counter-propositions of His Majesty's Government in

* We said nothing about October 17, but Sir E. Satow is right in saying that Article IV, not Article VI, was intended. We must omit the words "of October 17," which are meaningless.

regard to the adhesion of China to the Lhasa Convention of 1904. In explanation of the delay in formulating our counter-draft I mentioned that at the time he gave me Prince Ch'ing's draft Convention (the 9th January) a general election was proceeding in England, and that I had been obliged to refer to a point (the future of the Dalai Lama) which had been discussed with him privately more than once. I then showed him in the Prince's draft the alterations we desired, and gave him the English and Chinese texts of the body of the Convention in the form proposed by us. I went through the alterations and amendments one by one :—

Article I. No change proposed.

Article II. Instead of "encroach upon" and "interfere," in the first part of this Article, I proposed "annex" and "intervene." The Chinese expressions rendering "encroach" and "interfere" had an invidious meaning, and implied wrongful action. It was unnecessary, I said, for His Majesty's Government to undertake in so many words to refrain from wrongful acts.

Article III. The words "other than China" were inserted after "to any State, or to subject of any other State," and I explained that this was done to avoid the objections to Article IX of the Lhasa Convention, which Prince Ch'ing had informed me in the autumn of 1904 had been raised by the Representatives of certain Powers on the ground that the most-favoured-nation clauses of their Treaties were infringed. The words "by arrangement with China" were omitted. I mentioned that in the Indian Government draft the words were "by arrangement with the Thibetan Government," and that under the circumstances it seemed better to dispense with the phrase altogether.

Article IV. I said that we had not considered this Article necessary, but that, as Prince Ch'ing desired its insertion, we were ready to accede to his wish, merely changing the form slightly so as to give it more distinctness.

Articles V and VI remained unchanged.

Mr. T'ang appeared to notice most the Chinese expression used to represent "annex" in Article II, and the omission of the words "by arrangement with China" in Article III, but he raised no formal objection, and it was understood between us that he would first show our draft to Prince Ch'ing and take his opinion.

I then said that in the Indian draft there was an Article by which China was to agree not to employ any one not a Chinese subject and not of Chinese nationality in any capacity in Thibet, and that at Calcutta he saw objection to the insertion of this clause in the Convention, though he was prepared to accept it in the form of a note. To this I said we agreed, and consequently I handed to him a draft of such a note as was desired by His Majesty's Government. Mr. T'ang argued that it would be a useful arrangement if China could employ members of the foreign staff of the Imperial Maritime Customs at the trade-marts, there being a dearth of experienced officers of Chinese nationality for this purpose, and said that she would be ready to undertake that such persons should be of British nationality. I pointed out that an arrangement of this kind would probably be made use of by objectors to show that the most-favoured-nation clause was being violated, as they had already done in respect of Article IX of the Lhasa Convention; if we agreed to such an exception in our favour, it would be inconsistent with our proposed wording of Article III. I trusted therefore that Prince Ch'ing would see his way to accepting the note as drafted.

I then handed to Mr. T'ang a draft in English of the preamble I proposed, merely remarking that it was shorter than that proposed at Calcutta. There was no discussion worth recording on this draft, but it may be mentioned that the second paragraph is a condensation of the first two paragraphs of Mr. T'ang's own draft preamble of the 6th March, 1905, omitting the phrase "contrary to the wishes and instructions of China, whose sovereignty over Thibet has always been recognized by the British Government"; and that the third paragraph is a condensation of paragraphs 4, 5, and 6 of the Indian draft.

I explained to Mr. T'ang that I was already in possession of full powers conferred on me by His Majesty the King, and he said that Prince Ch'ing would at any time obtain a Decree conferring the necessary full powers on him.

I inclose copies of the three drafts—Convention, note, and preamble—which are mentioned above as having been handed to Mr. T'ang.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

ERNEST SATOW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 98.

Proposed Convention between Great Britain and China.

[Preamble.]

ARTICLE I.

THE Convention concluded on the 7th September, 1904, by the Governments of Great Britain and Thibet, the texts of which, in English and Chinese, are attached to the present Convention as an annex, is hereby confirmed, subject to the modification stated in the declaration appended thereto, and both of the High Contracting Parties engage to take at all times such steps as may be necessary to secure the due fulfilment of the terms specified therein.

ARTICLE II.

The Government of Great Britain engages not to annex Thibetan territory or to intervene in the administration of Thibet. The Government of China also undertakes not to permit any other foreign State to interfere with the territory or internal administration of Thibet.

ARTICLE III.

The Concessions which are mentioned in Article IX (d) of the Convention concluded on the 7th September, 1904, by the Governments of Great Britain and Thibet are denied to any State, or to the subject of any State, other than China, but at the trade-marts specified in Article II of the aforesaid Convention Great Britain shall have the right of laying down telegraph lines connecting with India.

ARTICLE IV.

The provisions of the Anglo-Chinese Convention of 1890 and Regulations of 1893 shall, subject to the terms of this present Convention and annex thereto, remain in full force.

ARTICLE V.

The English and Chinese texts of the present Convention have been carefully compared and found to correspond, but in the event of there being any difference of meaning between them, the English text shall be authoritative.

ARTICLE VI.

This Convention shall be ratified by the Sovereigns of both countries, and ratifications shall be exchanged within days after the date of signature by the Plenipotentiaries of both Powers.

In token whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed and sealed this Convention, two copies in English and two in Chinese.

Inclosure 2 in No. 98.

Proposed Draft Note to Prince Ch'ing.

Your Excellency,

WITH reference to the Convention relating to Thibet, which was signed to-day by your Excellency and myself on behalf of our respective Governments, I have the honour to declare formally that the Government of China undertakes not to employ any one, not a Chinese subject and not of Chinese nationality, in any capacity whatsoever in Thibet.

I avail, &c.

Inclosure 3 in No. 98.

Proposed Draft Preamble.

WHEREAS His Majesty the King of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India, and His Majesty the Emperor of China are sincerely desirous to maintain and perpetuate the relations of friendship and good understanding which now exist between their respective Empires ;

And whereas the refusal of the Thibetan Government to recognize the validity of, or to carry into full effect the provisions of, the Anglo-Chinese Convention of the 17th March, 1890, and Regulations of the 5th December, 1893, placed the British Government under the necessity of taking active measures to secure their rights and interests under the said Convention and Regulations ;

And whereas a Convention of ten Articles was signed at Lhasa on the 7th September, 1904, on behalf of the Governments of Great Britain and Thibet, and was ratified by the Viceroy and Governor-General of India on behalf of the British Government on the 11th November, 1904, a Declaration on behalf of the British Government modifying its terms under certain conditions being appended thereto ;

His Britannic Majesty and His Majesty the Emperor of China have resolved to conclude a Convention on this subject, and have for this purpose named Plenipotentiaries, that is to say :

His Majesty the King of Great Britain and Ireland,

and His Majesty the Emperor of China,

who, having communicated to each other their respective full powers, and finding them to be in good and due form, have agreed upon and concluded the following Convention in Articles :—

[15397]

No. 99.

Mr. Spring-Rice to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 6.)

No. 85.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

St. Petersburg, May 6, 1906.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 82 of yesterday, it appears advisable to hasten the ratification of the Agreement with China relative to her adhesion to the Thibet Treaty, as the Russian Government will probably now work against it.

[15419]

No. 100.

Mr. Spring-Rice to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 292.)

Sir,

St. Petersburg, May 2, 1906.

I CALLED on Count Lamsdorff to-day at his official reception, and handed to him a Memorandum, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, embodying your telegraphic communications of the last two days on the subject of Thibet.

Count Lamsdorff read the Memorandum attentively, and then informed me that you were perfectly right in assuming that the principle by which the Russian policy was guided in all questions affecting Thibet was the principle of absolute non-inter-vention. With regard to the recent incident of the Buriat Guard, he said the circumstances were as follows :—

A number of the Emperor's subjects looked on the Dalai Lama as their High Priest, and quasi-divinity. The Dalai Lama himself, and his disciples on his behalf, were convinced that his life was threatened in case of his return to Lhasa. It was highly undesirable that he should continue his wanderings in the neighbourhood of Urga and among the Princes of Mongolia. His return to his capital city was to be wished for in the interests of the Buddhist communities of Northern Asia. But he had, as it appeared, refused to return unless he received some solid guarantees that

his life would not be in peril. These guarantees the Russian Government had been unable to give him. But it was difficult for them to refuse a request proffered by the Russian Buddhists that some of their number might accompany their master to his home in order to defend him from possible attacks on his sacred person.

The Russian Government, acting on the advice of the officials who had special knowledge of the temper of the Siberian Buriats, had agreed to this request, but nothing was further from their thoughts than a desire to intervene thereby in the internal affairs of Thibet.

With regard to your request that orders should be issued to prevent the Russian subjects from entering Thibetan territory, his Excellency said that his personal impression was that their intention had been to return to their homes as soon as the frontier had been reached. He could not, however, assure me positively that a definite arrangement to this effect had been arrived at. He thought (speaking for himself) that the idea was a good one: their responsibility should cease as soon as the sacred frontier had been reached, and as soon as they had been able to hand over their charge to their fellow disciples in Thibet itself. He would telegraph at once to the Russian Consul at Urga and to the Russian Minister at Peking, with a view to ascertaining the facts of the case, and, if possible, arranging that the Buriats should return with the utmost despatch.

I pointed out that the antecedents of the Dalai Lama were well known; that if he returned to Lhasa it was quite possible that he would take an active part in politics, and would initiate or carry out a policy directed against British interests, as had previously been the case; and that if this was his policy, and if he were known to be surrounded by an armed guard of Russian subjects who had accompanied him on his return, it would be quite impossible for His Majesty's Government to remain indifferent to such a situation, and that the results would be unfortunate for those good relations which we had so much at heart, and would be quite inconsistent with those assurances which had already passed between the two Governments.

Count Lamsdorff informed me in reply that there never had been any question of the Buriats remaining at Lhasa. All that the Russian Government desired was that the Lama should arrive safe at his capital, and that nothing should befall him *en route*, and that they themselves should be in a position to assure the Emperor's Buddhist subjects that everything had been done, which could properly be done, in order to insure his safety. Every effort had been taken to impress upon his mind that he must not disturb the tranquillity of Thibet, that he must not assume a provocative attitude, and that he could count on neither support nor assistance from Russia.

His Excellency assured me that he would spare no effort in order to arrive at a satisfactory settlement of the question, and begged me to express to you his thanks for your frankness and his hopes that the same policy of perfect frankness would be pursued in the future.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CECIL SPRING-RICE.

Inclosure in No. 100.

Communication handed to Count Lamsdorff by Mr. Spring-Rice on May 2, 1906.

J'AI dit au Comte Benckendorff que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, tout en appréciant l'esprit amical dont le Gouvernement Russe a fait preuve en communiquant l'information au sujet du Dalai-Lama, craint que son retour à Lhasa ne donne lieu à des troubles au Tibet, et est d'avis que dans le cas où le Lama sera accompagné dans son voyage par une escorte armée de sujets Russes, il adoptera, selon toute probabilité, une attitude provocante et créera des désordres, ce qui pourrait mettre le Gouvernement Britannique dans la nécessité d'avoir recours à une nouvelle intervention: éventualité d'autant plus regrettable que le Tibet jouit actuellement d'une tranquillité parfaite et que le Gouvernement Britannique est aussi loin que possible du désir d'intervenir dans ce pays. Une Convention vient d'être signée avec la Chine au sujet du Tibet, dont le Gouvernement Anglais n'a pas encore reçu le texte définitif. Le but de cette Convention est l'adhésion de la Chine à la Convention entre l'Angleterre et le Tibet.

L'Angleterre s'engage à ne pas empiéter sur le territoire Tibétain et de ne pas s'ingérer dans le Gouvernement du Tibet: la Chine de sa part s'engage de ne pas permettre d'intervention étrangère dans les affaires du Tibet, extérieures ou intérieures.

La Convention contient en outre une clause portant que l'Angleterre ne réclame pour elle-même aucune Concession qui, selon la Convention avec le Tibet, est défendue à une autre Puissance ou à ses sujets.

Vous porterez ce qui précède à la connaissance du Comte Lamsdorff qui, j'en suis sûr, verra dans cette Convention une nouvelle preuve du désir du Gouvernement Britannique de s'abstenir de toute intervention dans les affaires Tibétaines ; et vous ajouterez que, dans l'opinion du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, la présence au delà de la frontière Tibétaine d'une escorte armée de sujets Russes est de nature à soulever des objections sérieuses, comme étant en effet un acte d'intervention de la part de la Russie dans les affaires intérieures de ce pays.

Je suis convaincu que le Gouvernement Russe, en conformité avec des déclarations déjà faites par le Comte Lamsdorff, partage notre point de vue que toute intervention étrangère dans les affaires du Tibet est contraire aux intérêts tant Russes qu'Anglais ; et dans cet ordre d'idées je vous prie d'exprimer notre espoir que le Gouvernement Russe ne refusera pas d'envoyer des ordres aussitôt que possible dans le but d'empêcher l'escorte de Bouriates de procéder au delà de la frontière de la Mongolie.

[15641]

No. 101.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 7.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 4th instant, relative to Russia and the Dalai Lama.

India Office, May 7, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 101.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, May 4, 1906.

THIBET. Dalai Lama's return to Lhasa. See my telegram of the 2nd May. According to explanation given by Count Lamsdorff, Russian Government were afraid that if any accident happened to Dalai Lama there would be an outbreak among Buriats, and permission to accompany Lama was therefore given to them. Russian Government will send instructions to their Minister at Peking and Consul at Urga to make arrangements, if possible, that, as soon as the frontier is reached, charge shall be handed over by Buriat escort to Thibetans. Russian Foreign Minister further states that there is a clear understanding on the part of the Lama that he is expected to keep quiet, and that no help or support from Russian Government can be counted on by him ; Count Lamsdorff stated also that he was absolutely opposed to intervention in Thibet, and that his personal impression was that the Buriat escort was not to proceed further than the frontier of Thibet.

[15525]

No. 102.

Mr. Carnegie to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 93. Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Peking, May 7, 1906.

THIBET.

I communicated verbally to T'ang, in confidence, the substance of your telegram No. 88 of the 3rd instant. He told me that the Wai-wu Pu had no information concerning the Buriat escort, and that he was incredulous as to its existence. In any case, he said, it is not now with the Dalai Lama, who is still near Urga and travelling rather towards Peking than in the direction of Thibet. China had no intention of permitting his return thither for the present.

[15970]

No. 103.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 10.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosure in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 15th March, relative to Thibet affairs.

India Office, May 9, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 103.

Mr. White to the Government of India.

Sir,

Gangtok, February 16, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Russell's letter dated the 13th instant, conveying the instructions of His Majesty's Government, to the effect that the local British officials in Thibet should, while maintaining friendly relations with the Tashi Lama, confine their communications within the narrowest possible limits, and to avoid any action tending to interfere with the internal affairs of Thibet and with the relations of the Tashi Lama to the Lhasa Government and the Emperor of China.

2. The orders of the Government of India that these instructions may be carefully borne in mind by me and my assistants in our future relations with the Tashi Lama have been noted, and they have been communicated, as directed, to the Trade Agent at Gyantse and to the Assistant Political Officer in the Chumbi Valley.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN C. WHITE,

Political Agent, Sikkim.

[16803]

No. 104.

Extract from the "Times," May 10, 1906.

In answer to Sir H. Cotton :—

Mr. Morley said,—Now that the Convention with China is signed, early payment of the first instalment of the Thibetan indemnity may be looked for, but I am not yet in a position to give definite information.

Sir H. Cotton asked whether the right honourable gentleman was in a position to state whether China would guarantee payment of the indemnity.

Mr. Morley said he would rather not answer a question of this kind until the case was complete. As soon as the first payment was made, he should be quite willing to give the honourable Member full information.

[16110]

No. 105.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 11.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 7th May, relative to Russia and the Dalai Lama.

India Office, May 11, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 105.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, May 7, 1906.

RETURN of Dalai Lama to Thibet.

On being informed that Dalai Lama was being escorted by Buriats on his return to Lhasa, Chinese Government told His Majesty's Minister at Peking that warning was conveyed by special mission to Lama last month against acting in a way likely to raise difficulties with foreign Powers, and against intriguing with Russian officials. His removal from the Dalai Lamaship will, he is to be told, be the result of his neglecting this warning. Assurances that all necessary steps will be taken by them are given by the Chinese Government, who promise that Lama will not be permitted to cause any disturbance in Thibet, or to return to Lhasa for the present.

The above is the substance of a telegram dated the 3rd instant from Sir E. Satow.

[16292]

No. 106.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 12.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 11th May, relative to the proposed journey of Dr. Sven Hedin to Central Thibet.

India Office, May 12, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 106.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

May 11, 1906.

ON the strength of promises of assistance given by my predecessor, Dr. Sven Hedin, who is expected at Simla towards the close of the present month, and who proposes to make an eighteen months' journey to the Central Thibet Lake region, asks for services of three native assistants, and possibly of a small number of Gurkhas.

Unless steps are taken to insure our deriving full benefit from his researches, and if such journeys are to be prohibited to our own officers, we deprecate permission being given to him.

For many reasons, however, we recognize that absolute refusal of his requests would be difficult. Our proposal is, therefore, that he should be permitted to proceed with the Assistant Commissioner of Kulu to Gartok on visit of inspection to trade-mart there.

We hope that at Gartok it may be possible for Trade Agent at Gyantse to meet him, and, provided local Thibetan officials raise no objection, arrange for his further explorations.

After he parts from Trade Agent our responsibility for him would end, though latter would help him if he so desires to leave Thibet by the Gyantse route. We do not think he should be allowed to travel down Brahmaputra Valley, exploration of which it is desired to reserve for one of our own officers, as this might at present rouse opposition on part of Lhasa authorities, which it is hoped our own proposals would not excite.

If Thibetans make opposition, Sven Hedin will have to come back with our officers. Owing to effect produced by Thibet Mission he will probably, as in the case of Count Lesdain, be able to make his journey, entering Thibet from the north, even if permission to cross the frontier is refused by us; and should expedition be carried out in spite of our opposition, our officers will still be obliged to help him in leaving the country.

General question of travelling in Thibet forms the subject of a letter which we are addressing to you; meanwhile, please telegraph instructions regarding Sven Hedin's journey as time presses.

Sir E. Satow to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received May 16.)

No. 149.)
Sir,

Peking, April 5, 1906.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 127 of the 21st March, I have the honour to inform you that Mr. T'ang Shao-yi called on me by arrangement on the 30th March to discuss the counter-draft of the Thibet Adhesion Convention and draft note which I communicated to him on the 14th March.

As regards the preamble and the body of the Convention generally, he wished to avoid the use of "Governments of Great Britain and Thibet," and to say merely "Great Britain and Thibet." In Article II his Government, he said, desired to retain "interfere" in both sentences, and also the phrase "by arrangement with China," in Article III.

I saw no special difficulty in the first two points, and agreed to refer them to you, but I considered that the form of words suggested in Article III would place it in the power of the Chinese authorities to throw obstacles in the way of the construction of the telegraph lines, and by way of compromise I proposed the following: "But it has been arranged with China that at the trade marts specified in Article II of the aforesaid Convention Great Britain shall be entitled to lay down telegraph lines connecting with India." This he was willing to accept, and I promised to submit it to you. It seemed to me that the mention of the matter in the Adhesion Convention in itself constituted an arrangement with China, and that, once it was made clear that the arrangement was definitely concluded, and was not open to future discussion, the chief objection to the form of words in Prince Ch'ing's draft was removed.

As to the stipulation on the subject of the employment of foreigners in Thibet, he agreed to an exchange of notes in the form proposed by me, provided that I was authorized to inform him verbally that China may employ foreigners for a period of twelve months after the date of signature, in order to give time for the organization of the Customs.

I had the honour to send you a telegram on the 30th March containing the information stated above, and I inclose herewith a copy of the draft Convention in the form now proposed by Mr. T'ang Shao-yi.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ERNEST SATOW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 107.

Convention between Great Britain and China.

WHEREAS His Majesty the King of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India, and His Majesty the Emperor of China are sincerely desirous to maintain and perpetuate the relations of friendship and good understanding which now exist between their respective Empires;

And whereas the refusal of Thibet to recognize the validity of or to carry into full effect the provisions of the Anglo-Chinese Convention of the 17th March, 1890, and Regulations of the 5th December, 1893, placed the British Government under the necessity of taking steps to secure their rights and interests under the said Convention and Regulations;

And whereas a Convention of ten Articles was signed at Lhasa on the 7th September, 1904, on behalf of Great Britain and Thibet, and was ratified by the Viceroy and Governor-General of India on behalf of Great Britain on the 11th November, 1904, a Declaration on behalf of Great Britain notifying its terms under certain conditions being appended thereto;

His Britannic Majesty and His Majesty the Emperor of China have resolved to conclude a Convention on this subject, and have for this purpose named Plenipotentiaries, that is to say:—

His Majesty the King of Great Britain and Ireland:

and His Majesty the Emperor of China:

who, having communicated to each other their respective full powers and finding them to be in good and due form, have agreed upon and concluded the following Convention in Articles:—

ARTICLE I.

The Convention concluded on the 7th September, 1904, by Great Britain and Thibet, the texts of which in English and Chinese are attached to the present Convention, as an annex, is hereby confirmed, subject to the modification stated in the Declaration appended thereto, and both of the High Contracting Parties engage to take at all times such steps as may be necessary to secure the due fulfilment of the terms specified therein.

ARTICLE II.

The Government of Great Britain engages not to annex Thibetan territory or to interfere in the administration of Thibet. The Government of China also undertakes not to permit any other foreign State to interfere with the territory or internal administration of Thibet.

ARTICLE III.

The concessions which are mentioned in Article IX (d) of the Convention concluded on the 7th September, 1904, by Great Britain and Thibet are denied to any State or to the subject of any State other than China, but it has been arranged with China that at the trade marts specified in Article II of the aforesaid Convention Great Britain shall be entitled to lay down telegraph lines connecting with India.

ARTICLE IV.

The provisions of the Anglo-Chinese Convention of 1890 and Regulations of 1893 shall, subject to the terms of this present Convention and annex thereto, remain in full force.

ARTICLE V.

The English and Chinese texts of the present Convention have been carefully compared and found to correspond, but in the event of there being any difference of meaning between them the English text shall be authoritative.

ARTICLE VI.

This Convention shall be ratified by the Sovereigns of both countries, and ratifications shall be exchanged within days after the date of signature by the Plenipotentiaries of both Powers.

In token whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed and sealed this Convention, two copies in English and two in Chinese.

Inclosure 2 in No. 107.

Proposed Note to Prince Ch'ing.

Your Excellency,

WITH reference to the Convention relating to Thibet which was signed to-day by your Excellency and myself on behalf of our respective Governments, I have the honour to declare formally that the Government of China undertakes not to employ any one not a Chinese subject and not of Chinese nationality in any capacity whatsoever in Thibet.

I avail, &c.

[17118]

No. 108.

Question asked in the House of Commons, May 16, 1906.

Sir Henry Cotton,—To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Convention between Great Britain and China, which was signed at Peking on the 27th ultimo, provides for the payment by China of the Thibetan indemnity of 25,00,000 rupees to the Indian Government.

Answer.

The Thibetan indemnity is not mentioned in the Convention in question.

[16967]

No. 109.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 17.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a paraphrase of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 15th May, relative to the proposed journey of Dr. Sven Hedin to the interior of Thibet.

India Office, May 17, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 109.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.
THIBET.

India Office, May 15, 1906.

Your telegram dated the 11th May, 1906.

It should be explained to Sven Hedin that it is impossible for us to ask for facilities for him, which we decline to ask for from the Thibetan Government in the case of our own officers, and that he cannot be permitted, in the circumstances, to cross our frontier.

I presume that no examination of goldfields will be included in Assistant Commissioner's visit to Gartok, and that it will be confined strictly to purposes of trade. On receipt of your letter dealing with the general subject, Sven Hedin's application will be given further consideration.

[17094]

No. 110.

Question asked in the House of Commons, May 17, 1906.

Sir Henry Cotton,—To ask the Secretary of State for India what is the value of the export and of the import trade between British India and Thibet during the last year for which official figures are available.

Answer.

The figures for the twelve months ending the 31st March, 1905, are: Exports to Thibet, 79,539*l.*; imports from Thibet, 92,421*l.*; total, 171,960*l.* For the nine months ending the 31st December, 1905, the exports were 95,576*l.*, and the imports 111,578*l.*, or a total of 207,154*l.*

[17095]

No. 111.

Question asked in the House of Commons, May 17, 1906.

Sir Henry Cotton,—To ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Indian Government has decided to construct a road from British territory in the Julpigoree district, through the independent State of Bhutan, for a distance of 80 miles into Thibet, in order to establish a new line of communication from Bengal to the new trade-mart at Gyantse in Central Thibet, and, if so, what is the estimated cost of this project.

Answer.

The survey of a road from the Julpigoree district in Bengal through Bhutan to Chumbi was carried out in 1905 by agreement with the Bhutan authorities, but no proposal to construct the road has been received from the Government of India, nor have any estimates been furnished of the cost.

[17096]

No. 112.

Question asked in the House of Commons, May 17, 1906.

Sir Henry Cotton,—To ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Indian Government has decided to complete the Hindustan-Thibet road in order to establish an unbroken link between Simla and Gartok, the new trade mart in Western Thibet ; and, if so, what is the estimated cost of this project.

Answer.

I have no official information as to any scheme for completing the Hindustan-Thibet road to Gartok. The Government of India have been asked to report on the subject with reference to the statements that have appeared in the press.

[17965]

No. 113.

Question asked in the House of Commons, May 23, 1906.

Sir Henry Cotton,—To ask the Secretary of State for India when he expects to be in a position to give information regarding the payment of the first instalment of the Thibetan indemnity.

Answer.

As I stated on the 9th instant, early payment of the first instalment of the indemnity may be looked for. But I have not yet heard that the payment has been made.

[17971]

No. 114.

Question asked in the House of Commons, May 23, 1906.

Sir Henry Cotton,—To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs when he expects to be in a position to lay upon the table the terms of the Convention between Great Britain and China, which was signed at Peking on the 22nd April ; and whether he proposes to present papers on the subject.

Answer.

Provision is made in the Convention for the exchange of ratifications within three months of signature, and as soon as it is ratified, the Convention will be presented to Parliament.

It does not seem necessary to lay on the table any other papers on the subject.

[18346]

No. 115.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 28.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of telegrams relative to the Thibet indemnity.

India Office, May 28, 1906.

Inclosure 1 in No. 115.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, May 23, 1906.

THIBET. Please let me know, with reference to my telegram dated the 3rd instant, how matters stand with regard to the indemnity.

Inclosure 2 in No. 115.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

May 26, 1906.

THIBET. Your telegram dated the 23rd instant.

Decision to make payment of indemnity to the amount of 833,333 rupees has been notified by Shape. Unless you have any contrary instructions, of which we might be informed by telegraph, payment will be made to the Accountant-General, Bengal, at Calcutta on Monday or Tuesday by the Shape, who arrives there on Sunday.

[18779]

No. 116.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir C. MacDonald.

(No. 82.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 28, 1906.

I TOOK an opportunity to-day of explaining to the Japanese Chargé d'Affaires that there was no truth in the statement which had appeared in the press that we had concluded an Agreement with the Russian Government. What had happened was that we had lately had occasion to discuss several matters with Russia, and had been co-operating with regard to them. I instanced especially Crete, Macedonia, the increase of customs duties in Turkey, and the general state of affairs in Persia, with special reference to the trouble on the Turco-Persian frontier. Many years ago, Russia and England had surveyed this frontier and drawn up a map stating approximately what the frontier was then considered to be, and now that there was a dispute about it and encroachments by Turkey we had naturally taken a joint interest in the matter.

Count Mutsu asked me whether we had not also discussed Afghanistan and Thibet with Russia.

I said that since I came into office we had not had occasion to discuss the position of Afghanistan with Russia at all. But I had explained to the Russian Government the provisions of the Adhesion Convention with China with regard to Thibet.

Count Mutsu asked me whether we had also explained this Adhesion Convention at Tôkiô.

I said we had not made any communication to Tôkiô or any other place on this point. With regard to the information given to Russia, I said Lord Lansdowne had

given a definite statement to Russia of our position respecting Thibet as it had been left by the Convention between India and Thibet. Statements had lately appeared in the press to the effect that our Convention with China would give us a new and privileged position in Thibet. The Russian Government had made inquiries, and I had explained that the Convention with China was purely an Adhesion Convention, and had not altered the position as described to Russia by Lord Lansdowne.

Count Mutsu said that he understood, then, that we had not concluded any Agreement with Russia, but might perhaps be on our way towards one.

I said we had certainly not concluded any Agreement. But we were undoubtedly on more friendly terms than we had been a few years ago. I assured him, however, that as soon as there was any question on our part of coming to an Agreement with Russia that affected matters within the scope of our Alliance with Japan I would take care to keep the Japanese Government informed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

[18531]

No. 117.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 30.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 29th May, relative to the payment of the first instalment of the Thibetan indemnity.

India Office, May 30, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 117.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

May 29, 1906.

THIBET indemnity. Sechung Shape has paid first instalment.
(Repeated to Peking.)

[18698]

No. 118.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received May 31.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of inclosures in a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 10th May, relative to the prospects of trade between Gartok and Ladakh.

India Office, May 30, 1906.

Inclosure 1 in No. 118.

Government of India to Political Officer in Sikkim.

Sir,

Simla, May 8, 1906.

I AM directed to forward a copy of the letter from the Resident in Kashmir, reporting that a British-Indian merchant, named Shadi Lall, who attempted to proceed for trade purposes from Ladakh to Gartok, met with nothing but obstruction from the Thibetans in the course of his journey, and was eventually compelled by the Gartok authorities to return to Ladakh by the route by which he had come without having disposed of any of his merchandize.

2. I am to request that you will lay the facts of the case before the Lhasa Govern-

[1640]

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ment, and point out the grave violation of their Treaty engagements which has been involved by the action of the Garpon of Gartok.

3. You should add that the Government of India understand that immediately after the execution of the Treaty of the 7th September, 1904, the Lhasa Government informed the local authorities at Gartok of its terms, and instructed them to secure compliance therewith, and that they feel sure that the Lhasa authorities will at once take steps to call the local authorities to account for their disobedience of these orders, and will insist on compensation being paid to the victim of their arbitrary conduct.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

R. E. HOLLAND,

Assistant Secretary.

Inclosure 2 in No. 118.

Lieutenant-Colonel Pears to Government of India.

Camp Poonch, March 23, 1906.

WITH reference to Foreign Department letters dated the 1st May, 1905, and the 2nd March, 1906, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copy of a letter, dated the 20th February, 1906, from my Assistant for Leh, and of its inclosure, regarding the prospects of trade between Gartok and Ladakh.

2. As regards the condition of the road beyond the Ladakh frontier, my Assistant for Leh is being asked to expedite his Report on the subject, which will be forwarded on receipt.

3. The attitude assumed by the Thibetan authorities seems to preclude any prospect of trade being established, for the present at all events, between Leh and Gartok.

Inclosure 3 in No. 118.

Assistant to the Resident in Kashmir for Leh to Lieutenant-Colonel Pears.

Srinagar, February 20, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to invite a reference to your indorsement of the 12th May, forwarding a copy of a letter, dated the 1st May, from the Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, approving of the suggestion that a few selected traders should be allowed to proceed to Gartok, in Western Thibet, for the purposes of trade. Only one trader availed himself of the permission. This was a man named Shadi Lall, an old and experienced merchant on the Leh-Yarkand line. I have now received a full report on the result of his venture. It is certainly very far from being encouraging. He left Ladakh for Gartok in October, and after crossing the Thibet frontier, received nothing but obstruction. He arrived within a few marches of Gartok, where he was detained for fifteen days, and had several interviews with the Assistant Governor, who refused to allow him to trade. He sent messages to the Governor, who eventually came out to see him. The Governor also declined to allow him to proceed to Gartok, or to dispose of his merchandize. He also declined to allow him to proceed towards Rudok, or in any direction except along the route he had just come. The Champas (nomad inhabitants) had also orders to boycott him. As an instance of this, the merchant reports that the Champas were anxious to purchase grain from him, but were not allowed to do so. The Lapchak Mission from Ladakh to Lhasa happened to be passing, and he sold to their leader 1 maund of grain for 5 rupees. This man at once resold this to the Champas for 8 rupees. Eventually, seeing that all hope of success had disappeared, the merchant returned to Leh. He estimates his losses on the venture at 1,354 rupees. I attach a detailed statement, showing how this sum is arrived at.

2. I very much doubt if we can hope for any success in commercial enterprise with Western Thibet, certainly in the near future. I am also doubtful whether such enterprise is worth the encouragement. Apart from mineral resources, about which very little is known, Western Thibet is probably the poorest inhabited country in the world. It has no cultivation, no forests, no manufactures, no arts, and such primitive trade as exists is carried on chiefly by barter. In the circumstances I do not think that the refusal of these Champa nomads to trade with India can be regarded very

3. I have to-day received a petition from Shadi Lall from Kashgar, forwarded by Mr. Macartney. He asks that the Governor of Gartok may be called on to recompense him for the loss he suffered. I merely mention this, not as an indorsement to such a foolish application, but to show that Shadi Lall's failure, and the story of his treatment will be widely known, and that few, if any, merchants will now venture to trade with Western Thibet, certainly from the Ladakh side.

Inclosure 4 in No. 118.

Statement showing the Loss sustained by L. Shadi Lall, Merchant.

	Rs.
1. Hire of 35 horses, at the rate of 10 rupees each horse.. .. .	350
2. " 22 " " " " " "	220
3. Interest on 9,000 rupees at the rate of 1 per cent.	300
4. Expenses of four servants for three months at the rate of 7 rupees per month	84
5. Expenses of food, &c., for servants	200
6. Personal expenses of food, &c.	200
Total	1,354

No. 119.

Sir E. Satow to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 2.)

Peking, April 10, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to forward to you herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Consul-General at Chengtu on the subject of the P'an Shan Lama's visit to India, and on the measures which, it is said, the Chinese Government are to take for the purpose of safeguarding their interests in Thibet.

(Signed) ERNEST SATOW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 119.

Acting Consul-General Goffe to Sir E. Satow.

Chengtu, March 21, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy and translation of an extract from the "Chung Wai Jih Pao" of the 14th February last on the subject of the P'an Shan Lama's visit to India.

(Signed) HERBERT GOFFE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 119.

Extract from the "Chung Wai Jih Pao" of the 21st day of the 1st moon, 32nd year, of Kuang Hsü (February 14, 1906).

Government Measures for the Safeguarding of Chinese Interests in Thibet.

A PEKING telegram, dated the 2nd February, states that the Imperial Resident in Thibet has telegraphed to the Foreign Office urging that Chang, the Commissioner at Calcutta, who is charged with the conduct of the negotiations regarding Thibet with the

Viceroy of India, be instructed to settle without delay all outstanding questions with Great Britain, and that the Dalai Lama be at the same time directed to effect reforms in the administration of Thibet, otherwise the tribesmen would revolt and serious trouble would ensue.

The Foreign Office thereupon telegraphed in this sense to the Commissioner Chang, who replied that the Indian Government were purposely delaying a settlement of the matters at issue, and that on this account no agreement has yet been arrived at with regard to either China's control of Thibet or the repayment of the expenses incurred in connection with the recent military expedition to Lhasa. The Commissioner further reported that the British Government had induced the P'an Shan Lama to be presented to the Prince of Wales, and were trying to gain him over to their side, their intention being to oust the Dalai Lama and to instal the P'an Shan Lama as the Ruler of Thibet, with the support of the tribesmen. Such being the secret aim of Great Britain, there was no hope of the questions outstanding between the two Governments being settled in the near future.

The Foreign Office were much perturbed at this reply, and the Russian Minister took the opportunity to interpose and offer his advice.

The Chinese Government are afraid that the Imperial and Assistant Residents in Thibet are not equal to their posts, and it is proposed to replace them at an early date. A Tartar General and a Commander-in-chief will also be stationed at Lhasa and Ha Pu Lung Pu, and important strategic points will be occupied by regular troops.

Chengt'u, March 21, 1906.

[19354]

No. 120.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 5.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of telegrams relative to the admission of travellers into Thibet.

India Office, June 5, 1906.

Inclosure 1 in No. 120.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

May 26, 1906.

THIBET. We should be glad to receive instructions by telegraph as to whether Tei Suzuki, the Japanese traveller, should be permitted to cross into Thibet over the Kashmir frontier. He travelled from Europe, via Persia and the Nushki route, to Srinagar, and has left the latter place for Leh, with the intention of travelling back to India through Thibet. He is a professor at the Kioto Buddhist College, and states that study of Buddhist religion is the object of his visit, and that, after he has left Leh, he will adopt the costume of a Buddhist Lama, to which class he is said to belong.

Inclosure 2 in No. 120.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, May 29, 1906.

ADMISSION of travellers into Thibet.

Your telegram of the 26th instant.

Pending consideration of general question, treatment of the Japanese traveller should be as indicated in my telegram dated the 15th instant.

[19306]

No. 121.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 5.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 29th ultimo, relative to the Thibet indemnity.

India Office, June 2, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 121.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, May 29, 1906.

THIBET. With reference to your telegram dated the 26th May, proposal regarding payment of indemnity has my approval.

[19586]

No. 122.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 111.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

St. Petersburg, June 7, 1906.

I CALLED on the Minister of Foreign Affairs this afternoon, and began our conversations respecting Thibet by explaining to him verbally our several Conventions with that country and with China, communicating to him at the same time a copy of the Adhesion Convention in the form in which it is believed to have been signed, and promising him an exact copy when the Convention itself reached London.

When M. Isvolsky had listened to a verbal statement of the five bases of our demands (as laid down in my instructions), which I made to him with the necessary explanations, he inquired whether I would supply him with a written Memorandum of those points. Thinking that there could be no objection to obliging him in this respect, I promised to communicate them informally to him.

His Excellency said that he was not well versed in the questions at issue, and would like, before our next meeting, to peruse all past correspondence relating to them.

On his inquiring the lines on which I proposed that our discussions should proceed, I told him that, in my opinion, the best plan would be to examine the questions in order, and when, after an exchange of views, we had practically reached an agreement on one question, to treat the next in the same way until the examination of all the subjects for discussion was finished, upon which we would draw up and sign a Convention in which all the questions would be comprised. To this his Excellency agreed.

To his observation that, as he understood, I did not wish to come to a separate arrangement on each question, I replied that the settlement of each question must depend on our arrival at a general understanding, but that I did not wish an incomplete agreement.

I trust that you will concur in this view.

[19587]

No. 123.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 112. Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

St. Petersburg, June 7, 1906.

REFERENCE my telegram No. 111 of the 7th June.

I should be glad to know your views relative to the future of the Dalai Lama, as I think it probable that I shall be asked our views with regard to his return to Thibet. His name was mentioned in the course of our conversation, and I remarked that, in my opinion, His Majesty's Government would not be prepared to regard his

return with favour, but that at present I was not in a position to give expression to any definite opinion. Although M. Isvolsky wished me clearly to understand that his Government wished to interfere in no way with the internal affairs of Thibet, I think it possible that the question of his return to Lhasa may be brought forward in some form or another.

I should be grateful if the fact of our mentioning the Dalai Lama were not communicated to the Russian Ambassador in London.

[19685]

No. 124.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 113.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

St. Petersburg, June 8, 1906.

MY immediately preceding telegram: Dalai Lama.

I think it very possible that in the course of our discussions Russian Government may request that the Dalai Lama's place be filled by some one else, should his return to Lhasa be prevented.

Would you wish me to point out, in the case of the above question being raised, that inasmuch as we refrain from all intervention in Thibetan internal affairs, neither Government could nor should take action in that matter? or would you wish me to say that you would consent to the matter being mentioned to the Chinese Government by the British and Russian Representatives?

[19586]

No. 125.

Foreign Office to India Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 9, 1906.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Secretary of State for India, a copy of a telegram from His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg,* relative to the proposed Anglo-Russian Agreement respecting Thibet.

A copy of the instructions to which Sir A. Nicolson refers is annexed. Mr. Secretary Morley will recollect that they were drawn up by this Department after semi-official consultation with the India Office.

Secretary Sir E. Grey proposes, with Mr. Morley's concurrence, to approve Sir A. Nicolson's suggestions.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

F. A. CAMPBELL.

[20299]

No. 126.

Question asked in the House of Commons, June 11, 1906.

Sir Henry Cotton,—To ask the Secretary of State for India whether the first instalment of the Thibetan indemnity due on the 1st January has now been paid, and, if so, when and where; whether, if paid, the amount is 8,33,000 rupees instead of 1,00,000 rupees, which is the instalment due under the Thibetan Agreement of the 7th September, 1904; whether this amount has been paid or is guaranteed by the Chinese Government; whether it is now proposed to receive payment of the indemnity in three annual instalments instead of 25 as was originally intended; and whether, the other conditions of the Convention of the 7th September having been duly complied with by the Thibetans, the British occupation of the Chumbi Valley will cease after the payment of three instalments of the indemnity.

Answer.

A first instalment of the Thibetan indemnity amounting to 8,33,333 rupees was paid to the Accountant-General of Bengal at Calcutta by the Sechung Shape on the 29th May. It is understood that the money has been supplied to the Thibetan Government by the Chinese Government. His Majesty's Government have agreed to accept the indemnity in three instalments of 8,33,333 rupees each. It has always been the intention that the occupation of the Chumbi Valley should cease after three years, provided the instalments of the indemnity have been paid and the other conditions of the Convention complied with.

[19587]

No. 127.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 101.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, June 12, 1906.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 112 of the 7th instant relative to Thibetan affairs.

For reasons referred to in his telegram No. 30 of the 24th February, His Majesty's Minister was not disposed to urge that the Dalai Lama should be permanently excluded from Thibet.

If you are questioned on the subject by the Russian Government you might state that it is because they have no desire to interfere with the internal administration of Thibet, that His Majesty's Government deem it inexpedient to allow the Dalai Lama to return to Lhasa for the present. On a previous occasion his action was so hostile as to provoke our interference, and our intervention might be necessitated again.

[20198]

No. 128.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 114.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

St. Petersburg, June 13, 1906.

I WAS informed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, whom I saw at his weekly reception to-day, that the bases of our proposed discussions had been submitted by him to the Emperor. His Majesty, he informed me, joined with him in recognizing fully the liberal character of our demands, and had instructed him to negotiate with me for an arrangement upon the bases submitted.

M. Isvolsky informed me that he thought there would be no difficulty in arriving at an agreement on points mentioned in my draft instructions Nos. 3, 4, and 5, but he was unable fully to comprehend point 2, and he failed to grasp the meaning of external relations not being "disturbed" by any Power. He made other observations on this point, but I must reserve a description of them and of my reply for a despatch, which will explain them at length.

M. Isvolsky went on to say that he was anxious that the question of the relations between the Dalai Lama and Russian subjects of the Buddhist religion should be clearly laid down. He stated that it would be impossible to cut off all communications between the latter and the Spiritual Head of their Church, and he laid great stress on the necessity of some relations being maintained. He was also anxious to know whether it was the desire of His Majesty's Government to prevent the Russian Government or Russian private persons from undertaking expeditions into Thibet of a geographical or scientific nature, since such action on our part would, he maintained, be undesirable in the interests of science. I told him in reply that I would refer these questions to you, and I will write and report fully on them by despatch. As there is no immediate hurry, I would prefer to report on his Excellency's remarks at length by despatch rather than to compress them within the limits of a telegram.

M. Isvolsky explained to me that he desired to avoid all possibility of any future misunderstanding, and he therefore intended to be perfectly frank with me in regard to all doubts entertained by the Russian Government. I replied that I meant to be

equally frank with him, since there must be no possibility of future misinterpretations of our agreement, should we be so fortunate as to conclude one.

His Excellency drew my attention to the fact that we had secured the privilege of sending an official to Lhasa from our trade marts, and he remarked that I had mentioned that we desired that no Russian official in any capacity whatever should be allowed in Thibet. I explained to him that he was wrong on this point; for, although an Agreement to the effect he mentioned had been concluded at Lhasa, it had been repudiated by Mr. Balfour's Government. I think it would be well to correct this error by a note, and I am addressing a letter to him on the subject, referring him to the Thibet Blue Book, No. LII, p. 86.

[20398]

No. 129.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 104.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, June 15, 1906.

YOUR telegram No. 113 of the 8th instant, relative to the Dalai Lama.

You should adopt the first alternative suggested by you in the event of the question being raised.

[20959]

No. 130.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir C. MacDonald.

(No. 96.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 15, 1906.

I TOLD the Japanese Chargé d'Affaires that it might interest his Government to know that we had made definite proposals to Russia for an Agreement respecting Thibet. I gave him confidentially the proposals which we had instructed Sir Arthur Nicolson to make, pointing out that there was nothing really new in them, and what they amounted to was an Agreement for non-interference.

The Japanese Chargé d'Affaires asked me whether we had communicated this to the Russians, and I said we had, but we had not yet got their reply.

He also asked me whether we were discussing any Agreement on any other points. I told him we had not made any general proposal nor received any from Russia with regard to any other questions, such as Afghanistan and Persia. Troubles were constantly arising in Persia, disturbances and so forth, which needed our attention. And we had hitherto arranged these matters with Russia as they arose in a friendly way. But I had thought it worth while to tell him what was passing about Thibet, because that was a part of the world which was covered by our Agreement with Japan. And I further observed that, if we could make an Agreement with Russia about this and other matters which concerned the Indian frontier, it would be a very useful additional guarantee of peace.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

[20193]

No. 131.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 106.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, June 16, 1906.

THE proposal contained in last paragraph of your telegram No. 114 of the 13th instant respecting Thibet is approved. We will await receipt of despatch with regard to the other points raised.

[20633]

No. 132.

Sir E. Satow to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 195.)

Sir,

Peking, April 28, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to forward an original of the Convention signed yesterday in English and Chinese by the Chinese Plenipotentiary, Mr. Tong Shoa-yi, and myself, providing for the adhesion of China to the Lhasa Convention of the 7th September, 1904. The other original copy is retained in the archives of His Majesty's Legation. As the terms of this document have been discussed in the telegrams which have been exchanged between your Office and His Majesty's Legation it seems unnecessary to offer any explanation of the form which it has taken.

I add also a copy, and am sending to the Indian Government a copy, of both the English and Chinese texts.

I inclose also copies of the exchange of notes signed at the same time, by which the Chinese Government undertakes not to employ any foreigner in Thibet in any capacity, and of a private letter, which I gave to Mr. Tong at his request, embodying the verbal declaration I was authorized to make, that His Majesty's Government would not offer any objection to the employment of foreigners for the next twelve months in connection with Customs organization.

I may add that after our signatures had been affixed, and we had congratulated each other on the termination of a negotiation which from first to last has been conducted in a perfectly amicable manner and without any difference of opinion on matters of principle, Mr. Tong assured me that the terms of the Convention were regarded by His Majesty the Emperor as entirely satisfactory.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

ERNEST SATOW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 132.

Convention between Great Britain and China.

WHEREAS His Majesty the King of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, Emperor of India, and His Majesty the Emperor of China are sincerely desirous to maintain and perpetuate the relations of friendship and good understanding which now exist between their respective Empires ;

And whereas the refusal of Thibet to recognize the validity of or to carry into full effect the provisions of the Anglo-Chinese Convention of the 17th March, 1890, and Regulations of the 5th December, 1893, placed the British Government under the necessity of taking steps to secure their rights and interests under the said Convention and Regulations ;

And whereas a Convention of ten Articles was signed at Lhasa on the 7th September, 1904, on behalf of Great Britain and Thibet, and was ratified by the Viceroy and Governor-General of India on behalf of Great Britain on the 11th November, 1904, a Declaration on behalf of Great Britain modifying its terms under certain conditions being appended thereto ;

His Britannic Majesty and His Majesty the Emperor of China have resolved to conclude a Convention on this subject, and have for this purpose named Plenipotentiaries, that is to say :—

His Majesty the King of Great Britain and Ireland : Sir Ernest Mason Satow, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order St. Michael and St. George, His said Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to His Majesty the Emperor of China ; and His Majesty the Emperor of China : His Excellency Tong Shao-yi, His said Majesty's High Commissioner and Plenipotentiary, and a Vice-President of the Board of Foreign Affairs ;

who, having communicated to each other their respective full powers, and finding them to be in good and due form, have agreed upon and concluded the following Convention in six Articles :—

ARTICLE I.

The Convention concluded on the 7th September, 1904, by Great Britain and Thibet, the texts of which in English and Chinese are attached to the present Convention as an annex, is hereby confirmed, subject to the modification stated in the Declaration appended thereto, and both of the High Contracting Parties engage to take at all times such steps as may be necessary to secure the due fulfilment of the terms specified therein.

ARTICLE II.

The Government of Great Britain engages not to annex Thibetan territory or to interfere in the administration of Thibet. The Government of China also undertakes not to permit any other foreign State to interfere with the territory or internal administration of Thibet.

ARTICLE III.

The concessions which are mentioned in Article IX (d) of the Convention concluded on the 7th September, 1904, by Great Britain and Thibet are denied to any State or to the subject of any State other than China, but it has been arranged with China that at the trade marts specified in Article II of the aforesaid Convention Great Britain shall be entitled to lay down telegraph lines connecting with India.

ARTICLE IV.

The provisions of the Anglo-Chinese Convention of 1890 and Regulations of 1893 shall, subject to the terms of this present Convention and annex thereto, remain in full force.

ARTICLE V.

The English and Chinese texts of the present Convention have been carefully compared and found to correspond, but in the event of there being any difference of meaning between them the English text shall be authoritative.

ARTICLE VI.

This Convention shall be ratified by the Sovereigns of both countries, and ratifications shall be exchanged at London within three months after the date of signature by the Plenipotentiaries of both Powers.

In token whereof the respective Plenipotentiaries have signed and sealed this Convention, four copies in English and four in Chinese.

Done at Peking this 27th day of April, 1906, being the 4th day of the 4th month of the 32nd year of the reign of Kuang Hsü.

(Signed) ERNEST SATOW.
(Seal.)

(Signed) TONG SHOA-YI
(L.S.)

Annex.

CONVENTION between the Governments of Great Britain and Thibet signed at Lhasa on the 7th September, 1904.

DECLARATION signed by his Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India on behalf of the British Government, and appended to the ratified Convention of the 7th September, 1904.

Convention between the Governments of Great Britain and Thibet.

WHEREAS doubts and difficulties have arisen as to the meaning and validity of the Anglo-Chinese Convention of 1890 and the Trade Regulations of 1893, and as to the liabilities of the Thibetan Government under these Agreements;

And whereas recent occurrences have tended towards a disturbance of the relations of friendship and good understanding which have existed between the British Government and the Government of Thibet;

And whereas it is desirable to restore peace and amicable relations, and to resolve and determine the doubts and difficulties as aforesaid;

The said Governments have resolved to conclude a Convention with these objects, and the following Articles have been agreed upon by Colonel F. E. Younghusband, C.I.E., in virtue of full powers vested in him by His Britannic Majesty's Government, and on behalf of that said Government, and Lo-Sang Gyal-Tsen, the Ga-den Ti-Rimpoche, and the Representatives of the Council of the three monasteries Se-ra, Dre-pung, and Ga-den, and of the ecclesiastical and lay officials of the National Assembly, on behalf of the Government of Thibet:—

I.

The Government of Thibet engages to respect the Anglo-Chinese Convention of 1890, and to recognize the frontier between Sikkim and Thibet, as defined in Article I of the said Convention, and to erect boundary pillars accordingly.

II.

The Thibetan Government undertakes to open forthwith trade marts to which all British and Thibetan subjects shall have free right of access at Gyantse and Gartok, as well as at Yatung.

The Regulations applicable to the trade mart at Yatung, under the Anglo-Chinese Agreement of 1893, shall, subject to such amendments as may hereafter be agreed upon by common consent between the British and Thibetan Governments, apply to the marts above mentioned.

In addition to establishing trade marts at the places mentioned, the Thibetan Government undertakes to place no restrictions on the trade by existing routes, and to consider the question of establishing fresh trade marts under similar conditions if development of trade requires it.

III.

The question of the amendment of the Regulations of 1893 is reserved for separate consideration, and the Thibetan Government undertakes to appoint fully authorized Delegates to negotiate with Representatives of the British Government as to the details of the amendments required.

IV.

The Thibetan Government undertakes to levy no dues of any kind other than those provided for in the tariff to be mutually agreed upon.

V.

The Thibetan Government undertakes to keep the roads to Gyantse and Gartok from the frontier clear of all obstructions and in a state of repair suited to the needs of the trade, and to establish at Yatung, Gyantse, and Gartok, and at each of the other trade marts that may hereafter be established, a Thibetan Agent who shall receive from the British Agent appointed to watch over British trade at the marts in question any letter which the latter may desire to send to the Thibetan or to the Chinese authorities. The Thibetan Agent shall also be responsible for the due delivery of such communications and for the transmission of replies.

VI.

As an indemnity to the British Government for the expense incurred in the dispatch of armed troops to Lhasa, to exact reparation for breaches of Treaty obligations, and for the insults offered to, and attacks upon, the British Commissioner and his following and escort, the Thibetan Government engages to pay a sum of 500,000/. (equivalent to 75 lakhs of rupees) to the British Government.

The indemnity shall be payable at such place as the British Government may from time to time, after due notice, indicate, whether in Thibet or in the British districts of Darjeeling or Jalpaiguri, in seventy-five annual instalments of 1 lakh of rupees each on the 1st January in each year, beginning from the 1st January, 1906.

VII.

As security for the payment of the above-mentioned indemnity, and for the fulfilment of the provisions relative to trade marts specified in Articles II, III, IV, and V, the British Government shall continue to occupy the Chumbi Valley until the indemnity has been paid and until the trade marts have been effectively opened for three years, whichever date may be the later.

VIII.

The Thibetan Government agrees to raze all forts and fortifications and remove all armaments which might impede the course of free communication between the British frontier and the towns of Gyantse and Lhasa.

IX.

The Government of Thibet engages that, without the previous consent of the British Government—

(a.) No portion of Thibetan territory shall be ceded, sold, leased, mortgaged, or otherwise given for occupation to any foreign Power.

(b.) No such Power shall be permitted to intervene in Thibetan affairs.

(c.) No Representatives or Agents of any foreign Power shall be admitted to Thibet.

(d.) No concessions for railways, roads, telegraphs, mining, or other rights shall be granted to any foreign Power, or to the subject of any foreign Power. In the event of consent to such concessions being granted, similar or equivalent concessions shall be granted to the British Government.

(e.) No Thibetan revenues, whether in kind or in cash, shall be pledged or assigned to any foreign Power, or to the subject of any foreign Power.

X.

In witness whereof the negotiators have signed the same, and affixed thereunto the seals of their arms.

Done in quintuplicate at Lhasa this 7th day of September, in the year of our Lord 1904, corresponding with the Thibetan date, the 27th day of the 7th month the Wood Dragon year.

(Signed) F. E. YOUNGHUSBAND, Colonel,
British Commissioner.

Thibet Frontier Commission.
(Seal of British Commissioner.)

(Seal of the Dalai Lama, affixed by the
Ga-den Ti-Rimpoche.)

(Seal of Council.)
(Seal of the Dre-pung Monastery.)
(Seal of Se-ra Monastery.)
(Seal of Ga-den Monastery.)
(Seal of National Assembly.)

In proceeding to the signature of the Convention, dated this day, the Representatives of Great Britain and Thibet declare that the English text shall be binding.

(Signed) F. E. YOUNGHUSBAND, Colonel,
British Commissioner.

Thibet Frontier Commission.
(Seal of British Commissioner.)

(Seal of the Dalai Lama, affixed by the
Ga-den Ti-Rimpoche.)

(Seal of Council.)
(Seal of the Dre-pung Monastery.)
(Seal of Se-ra Monastery.)
(Seal of Ga-den Monastery.)
(Seal of National Assembly.)

(Signed) AMPTHILL,
Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

This Convention was ratified by the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in Council at Simla on the 11th day of November, A.D. 1904.

(Signed) S. M. FRASER,
Secretary to the Government of India,
Foreign Department.

Declaration signed by his Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, and appended to the ratified Convention of September 7, 1904.

His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, having ratified the Convention which was concluded at Lhasa on the 7th September, 1904, by Colonel Younghusband, C.I.E., British Commissioner for Thibet Frontier Matters, on behalf of His Britannic Majesty's Government; and by Lo-Sang Gyal-Tsen, the Ga-den Ti-Rimpoche, and the Representatives of the Council, of the three monasteries Se-ra, Dre-pung, and Ga-den, and of the ecclesiastical and lay officials of the National Assembly, on behalf of the Government of Thibet, is pleased to direct as an act of grace that the sum of money which the Thibetan Government have bound themselves under the terms of Article VI of the said Convention to pay to His Majesty's Government as an indemnity for the expenses incurred by the latter in connection with the dispatch of armed forces to Lhasa be reduced from 75,00,000 rupees to

25,00,000 rupees; and to declare that the British occupation of the Chumbi Valley shall cease after the due payment of three annual instalments of the said indemnity as fixed by the said Article, provided, however, that the trade marts as stipulated in Article II of the Convention shall have been effectively opened for three years as provided in Article VI of the Convention; and that, in the meantime, the Thibetans shall have faithfully complied with the terms of the said Convention in all other respects.

(Signed) AMPHILL,
Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

This Declaration was signed by the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in Council at Simla on the 11th day of November, A.D. 1904.

(Signed) S. M. FRASER,
*Secretary to the Government of India,
Foreign Department.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 132.

Tong Shoa-yi to Sir E. Satow.

Your Excellency,

April 27, 1906.

WITH reference to the Convention relating to Thibet which was signed to-day by your Excellency and myself on behalf of our respective Governments, I have the honour to declare formally that the Government of China undertakes not to employ any one not a Chinese subject and not of Chinese nationality in any capacity whatsoever in Thibet.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) TONG SHOA-YI.

Inclosure 3 in No. 132.

Sir E. Satow to Tong Shoa-yi.

Your Excellency,

Peking, April 27, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of this day's date, in which you declare formally, with reference to the Convention relating to Thibet which was signed to-day by your Excellency and myself on behalf of our respective Governments, that the Government of China undertakes not to employ any one not a Chinese subject and not of Chinese nationality in any capacity whatsoever in Thibet.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) ERNEST SATOW.

Inclosure 4 in No. 132.

Sir E. Satow to Tong Shoa-yi.

(Private.)

Dear Mr. Tong,

Peking, April 27, 1906.

AS regards the undertaking given by the Chinese Government in your note of to-day not to employ any one not a Chinese subject or of Chinese nationality in any capacity in Thibet, I am authorized to state that no objection will be raised by His Majesty's Government to the employment by China of foreigners for a period of twelve months from to-day, being the date of signature of our Convention, in order to give time for the organization of the Customs in Thibet, but after the 27th April, 1907, the undertaking in your note will, of course, come into force and be faithfully carried out.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) ERNEST SATOW.

[20634]

No. 133.

Sir E. Satow to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 196.)

Sir,

Peking, April 28, 1906.

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, I have the honour to explain that the Chinese text of the Lhasa Convention and of the Declaration of the 11th November, 1904, appended thereto, which form an annex to the Adhesion Convention signed yesterday by the Chinese Plenipotentiary and myself, is an entirely new one.

No copy of the Chinese version as signed at Lhasa has ever reached this Legation, and the Chinese Government only possessed a text which, on comparison, was considered to be an attempt at rendering into Chinese the draft referred to in Colonel Younghusband's letter of the 2nd September, 1904, to the Foreign Secretary of the Government of India, as having been communicated to the Amban on the previous day. The preamble of this document differed materially from the form adopted when the Convention was ultimately signed. On examining the body of the supposed Convention, it was found by Mr. Tong and Mr. C. W. Campbell to be a very imperfect translation of the English original. Mr. Campbell consequently prepared a new version, correctly reproducing the meaning of the English, which, with a few verbal modifications, was accepted by Mr. Tong, and was adopted in place of the text signed at Lhasa, whatever that may have been.

Although the English text is declared to be authoritative in case of a disputed interpretation of the Convention, it was of the highest importance that the Chinese version should correspond, as exactly as possible, since it is the Chinese practice invariably to rely on the version in their own language. The trouble that constantly recurs in consequence of the faulty character of the Chinese versions of the Treaties of 1842 and 1858 would not be believed by those who have had no experience of it, and on the present occasion it seemed to both parties necessary to provide against the occurrence of such disputes by making use of a Chinese version corresponding to the English text with the greatest attainable exactitude.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ERNEST SATOW.

[20636]

No. 134.

Sir E. Satow to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 198.)

Sir,

Peking, April 30, 1906.

I HAVE the honour to forward to you herewith copy of a despatch which I have received from His Majesty's Acting Consul-General at Chengtu, inclosing extracts from a private letter on the subject of Thibetan affairs and possible future movements of the Dalai Lama.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ERNEST SATOW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 134.

Acting Consul-General Goffe to Sir E. Satow.

(No. 16A. Confidential.)

Sir,

Chengtu, April 9, 1906.

I HAVE to transmit herewith some extracts from a private letter recently received from Ta Chien Lu on the subject of Thibetan affairs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT GOFFE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 134.

Extract of Private Letter received from Ta Chien Lu.

I HAVE just found out a short time ago that the Russian spy has left here for Peking and Russia. He had with him a good supply of Thibetan curios, books, &c., and was accompanied by a Mongol Lama and a Thibetan Lama from here.

I cannot find out the date of his departure, but it must have been very shortly before Chinese New Year, so that he probably spent Chinese New Year in Chengtu.

I have never been able to find out whether he had a Russian passport or not, but the Ta Chien Lu official once declared he was ignorant of any Russian subject being here in Ta Chien Lu, so he probably does not possess a passport.

They say the Dalai Lama refuses to go beyond the Ch'in Hai, west of Kansuh, and intends to build a monastery there, and remain for good.

The Chinese authorities are urging him to return to Lhasa, as they do not want to recognize Pan Chin-ring-po-chae, the Lama who was taken to India, as King of Thibet, but the Chinese are afraid to use force because the Mongols are prepared to fight for him if necessary.

Szechuan, March 19, 1906.

[20583]

No. 135.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 352. Confidential.)

Sir,

St. Petersburg, June 8, 1906.

I CALLED yesterday afternoon by appointment on M. Isvolsky, and we commenced our conversations in regard to Thibet. His Excellency said that he had waited on the Emperor on the previous day, and that His Majesty had mentioned to him what had passed at my audience in regard to an understanding between Great Britain and Russia on several questions of interest to both countries; and his Excellency added that the Emperor was desirous that an agreement should, if possible, be reached. M. Isvolsky said that I could rely upon his using his best endeavours towards attaining that object, but, as he was not very well versed in the questions with which we should have to deal, he must crave my indulgence if he took some little time in studying the past records.

I assured his Excellency that I desired in no way to hasten matters, and that in fact it was desirable that the questions should be examined with care.

M. Isvolsky then inquired of me what was the procedure which I proposed to follow.

I said that there were three principal questions which we might discuss, namely, Thibet, Afghanistan, and Persia, and that it seemed to me that the best course to pursue would be to examine each question *seriatim*, and that when we had practically come to an understanding on one question we should proceed to the next, and that when we had concluded our discussions we could draw up a Convention embracing all the conclusions at which we had arrived.

M. Isvolsky said that he understood that I did not desire to have three separate Agreements, but only one; and that I considered that the settlement of each question should depend finally on an Agreement on all of them. I said that was precisely my view, and that we should be following the course that had been adopted during the negotiations of the Anglo-French Agreement. M. Isvolsky expressed his concurrence with the method which I had proposed.

I thereupon gave verbally to M. Isvolsky a rapid sketch of the Convention with China of 1890 and of the Regulations of 1893, as well as of the Convention with Thibet of 1904, accompanying my statement with some necessary explanatory remarks. I then handed to him a copy of the Convention of the 27th April, 1906, as we believed it to be, and informed him that I would give him an exact copy as soon as the original had been received from Peking.

I also read to M. Isvolsky certain notes which I had made for my own guidance, taken from the instructions with which you had been good enough to furnish me; and I stated that I should be prepared to discuss with him on the basis of the points to which I had referred.

His Excellency asked if he might be supplied with some statement in writing, as it would be difficult for him to remember exactly the points which I had mentioned.

It seemed to me desirable that there should be no possibility of misunderstanding, and I therefore expressed my readiness to supply, in an informal and private manner, the information which he solicited. I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a private communication, with its inclosure, which I made to M. Isvolsky this morning.

I should mention that during our conversation M. Isvolsky spoke with some anxiety as to the future of the Dalai Lama, and inquired of me whether I had any information as to his whereabouts or movements. I said that beyond what the Russian Ambassador in London had communicated to you I had personally no information. M. Isvolsky said that he hoped that it would be clearly understood in London that the Russian Government had no desire to intervene in the movements of that personage, and that strict orders had been sent to endeavour if possible to prevent the Buriat escort from traversing the frontier of Thibet. He inquired whether my Government were opposed to the re-entry of the Dalai Lama into Lhassa. I said that I could not say that I had any precise instructions on that point, but that I had gathered, when in London, that the return of this personage would not be favourably viewed, as his reappearance might very probably occasion intrigues and troubles. I would, however, telegraph and inquire of you what views His Majesty's Government held on the subject.

M. Isvolsky then remarked that he had learnt that the Dalai Lama had been much pleased with the Convention signed at Peking at the end of last April. I observed that the Dalai Lama must possess facilities for very rapid communication to have been so speedily in possession of the terms of the Convention; but M. Isvolsky added that it was merely a report which had reached him.

M. Isvolsky then enlarged on the great importance which the Russian Government attached to the future of this personage, as he was Spiritual Chief of a large section of Russian subjects, whose religious susceptibilities it would be most unwise to offend; and that it was desirable that a Dalai Lama should be established at Lhassa. Were my Government opposed to the installation and presence of any Dalai Lama, or only to this particular one? I replied that I was really not in a position to give him a reply, as I had not consulted with you on this particular point.

On leaving M. Isvolsky, he said that he thought it would perhaps be better if I did not telegraph what he has said about the Dalai Lama, as he would like to study the question a little more thoroughly. I replied that I would ascertain your views on the subject for my own guidance and information.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 135.

Sir A. Nicolson to M. Isvolsky.

(Particulière.)

Mon cher Ministre,

Le 8 Juin, 1906.

EN conformité avec le désir que vous avez bien voulu m'exprimer pendant notre conversation d'hier, je me permets de transmettre, à titre tout confidentiel, ci-inclus à votre Excellence certains points que, je pense, pourraient servir de bases à nos entretiens sur le Tibet. Je serais toujours heureux de fournir toutes les explications qui pourraient vous paraître désirables, et je vous prie, &c.

(Signé) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 135.

Bases of Prospective Conversations between Sir A. Nicolson and M. Isvolsky respecting Thibet.

THE Russian Government will doubtless recognize, as His Majesty's Government have done, the suzerainty of China over Thibet, engaging at the same time to respect the territorial integrity of Thibet and to abstain from all interference with its internal administration.

2. It is clear that, by reason of its geographical position, Great Britain has a special interest in seeing that the external relations of Thibet are not disturbed by any other Power, and I have no doubt that the Russian Government will recognize that fact.

3. The British and Russian Governments to severally engage not to send a Representative to Lhasa.

4. The British and Russian Governments to agree not to seek or obtain, whether for themselves or for their subjects, any Concessions for railways, roads, telegraphs, mining, or other rights in Thibet.

5. The British and Russian Governments agree that no Thibetan revenues, whether in kind or in cash, shall be pledged or assigned to them or to any of their subjects.

It is doubtless unnecessary to add that no Russian official should be present in Thibet in any capacity whatsoever.

[20585]

No. 136.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 351.)

Sir,

St. Petersburg, June 8, 1906.

DURING our conversation yesterday, M. Isvolsky said that the Russian Government were watching with some disquietude the action of the Chinese Government in Mongolia. He explained to me that the Government at Peking apparently intended to curtail, if not to abolish entirely, the authority of those whom he termed the "feudatory Chief," and to impose on the whole country a Chinese administration under the central Government at Peking. These measures might, he feared, produce troubles, and compel the Russian Government to increase their military forces on the frontier.

He added that in Mongolia were numerous Japanese Agents who were working in favour of the projects of the Chinese Government, and these agitations gave cause for serious uneasiness. The above remarks of M. Isvolsky were made in connection with the question of the future of the Dalai Lama, and therefore bear out the suppositions of Mr. Spring-Rice, as reported in his despatch No. 319 of the 21st ultimo, that the anxiety displayed by the Russian Government in regard to that personage is chiefly caused by their desire to obtain control of the Mongolian nomads, who regard the Dalai Lama with great reverence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

[20588]

No. 137.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 18.)

(No. 358. Confidential.)

Sir,

St. Petersburg, June 11, 1906.

I INFORMED the French Ambassador yesterday, in confidence, that I had opened conversations with M. Isvolsky on the subject of an arrangement in regard to Thibet, but that I had not done more than explain to his Excellency the outline of the Conventions which had been concluded with that country and China, and that I had communicated to him privately certain points which might form the basis of future

discussions. I told M. Bompard privately that M. Isvolsky appeared chiefly anxious on two questions: the future position of the Dalai Lama, and the intention of China to assert and consolidate her position in Mongolia. M. Isvolsky, I said, had spoken to me at some length on both these questions, but that when my interview was concluded he had begged me not to telegraph to my Government any of the views which he had expressed, as, on further study and reflection, he might feel disposed to alter them. This method of procedure might, I feared, be a little irksome if continually repeated.

M. Bompard told me that he himself had observed that M. Isvolsky, though ready to converse freely, was nervous lest his statements should be taken as a positive declaration of his views, and was always careful to explain that what he had said should not be interpreted as the opinions of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. He was, M. Bompard remarked, "très fuyant," and he had himself had an instance of this in a conversation which he had held on the subject of Russian co-operation in the Bagdad Railway. M. Isvolsky had on that occasion expressed his entire concurrence with the proposal, but had at the close of the interview receded from the views which he had enunciated. I think that this hesitation will very possibly disappear when M. Isvolsky has been a little longer in office, and has rendered himself more fully acquainted with the multifarious questions with which he has to deal.

As regards the Bagdad Railway, M. Bompard said, as Mr. Spring-Rice has already reported, that the Chief of the Staff had no objections to Russian co-operation, but that M. Isvolsky had intimated that the Minister of Finance was opposed to Russian participation, fearing less heavy responsibilities and charges should be thrown upon the Russian Treasury. M. Bompard intended to take an opportunity of explaining to the Minister of Finance that the Russian Government would not be required to contribute capital, as this was a matter for banks and financial houses to undertake. His fears as to the responsibility of the Russian Treasury were, therefore, needless.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

[20457]

No. 138.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir A. Nicolson.

(No. 109.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, June 18, 1906.

I CONCUR in course of procedure suggested in your telegram No. 111 of the 7th instant relative to affairs of Thibet.

We shall only be able to judge whether a general agreement is possible after we have learnt the views of the Russian Government on Thibet, Persia, and Afghanistan. The preliminary discussions on each question should, therefore, not be carried on too closely in detail, and the disclosure of the Russian point of view on each question should be equivalent to our own as far as possible.

[21344]

No. 139.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir C. MacDonald.

(No. 102.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 20, 1906.

COUNT MUTSU told me to-day that he had communicated confidentially to Tôkiô the information I had given him about our negotiations with the Russian Government in connection with Thibet.

Viscount Hayashi had instructed him to thank me for the communication, and to say that he wished all success to the negotiations in which we were engaged.

I am, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD GREY.

[21313]

No. 140.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 23.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a paraphrase of telegram from the Viceroy, dated the 22nd instant, *re* Mission of Chang, late Chinese Commissioner, to trade marts in Thibet.

India Office, June 22, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 140.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

June 22, 1906.

THIBET. Request for interview with Foreign Secretary, in order to discuss his Mission to Thibet trade marts, has been made by the late Chinese Commissioner, Mr. Chang. If Chang raises subjects of trade routes, trade regulations and customs, and has authority to do so, should they be discussed? Meeting between him and Foreign Secretary has been arranged by latter for the 23rd June. On the 15th instant we learned by telegram from Chargé d'Affaires, Peking, that Wai-wu Pu informed him that Chang, who is in Simla with Henderson, proposed, after proceeding to Gartok, to return thence to India, and to go into Thibet, in order to arrange opening of trade marts there, *viâ* Darjeeling. Due facilities, which we propose to accord, were requested by Wai-wu Pu for journey *viâ* Darjeeling. We understand that Gartok visit will probably not take place, as Henderson is ill. Even if Chinese officials ever went to Gartok at all in the past, Simla route has never been used, and in any case it is, in our opinion, open to some doubt whether encouragement to enter Thibet by that way should be given to such officials. Provided that no difficulties to Assistant Commissioner of Kulu's journey of inspection are made, we would, if question is raised, permit Chang's visit as a special case.

[21425]

No. 141.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 359.)

Sir,

St. Petersburg, June 12, 1906.

I INQUIRED yesterday of the Chinese Minister, Mr. Hoo-Wei-Teh, whether he had any news of the movements of the Dalai Lama, who had apparently recently quitted his temporary place of residence in Mongolia. Mr. Hoo-Wei-Teh said that he understood that the Dalai Lama had requested permission of the Chinese Government to proceed to Peking, but that the latter had intimated to him that he had better return to Thibet. This, the Chinese Minister said, was all the information which he had received. I think that Mr. Hoo-Wei-Teh must be under some misapprehension, as his information does not at all accord with that which has been received from Peking (see Sir E. Satow's telegram No. 90 of the 3rd May, 1906.)

I also asked the Chinese Minister whether he could give me any information as to affairs in Mongolia, and whether the new system of administration had already been introduced into that country. He said that a Chinese Imperial Commissioner was either visiting or about to visit Mongolia for the purpose of arranging for the consolidation of Chinese authority, and that he anticipated that the new system would be welcome to the inhabitants, and would not be resisted by the Mongol Princes. He added that the education of children of both sexes was being seriously undertaken in Mongolia by Chinese who had received their education in Japan, and he believed that some Japanese instructors were also according their assistance. One of the Mongol Princes had proceeded to Japan in order to receive his education there, and he hoped great progress would be made in spreading education throughout Mongolia.

I asked the Chinese Minister whether he had spoken to M. Isvolsky in regard to Mongolian affairs, and he replied that the subject had not been mentioned between them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

[21428]

No. 142.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 362. Confidential.)

Sir,

St. Petersburg, June 13, 1906.

AT his weekly reception to-day M. Isvolsky said that he had communicated to the Emperor the bases on which I had suggested that our discussions with regard to Thibet should proceed, and that His Majesty had authorized him to treat with me on these bases. He wished in the first place to assure me that both the Emperor and himself were highly satisfied with the liberal character of our demands, and that he had received instructions which also coincided with his own personal wishes, to use his best efforts to arrive at a satisfactory arrangement. He considered that in our discussions it would be desirable to be perfectly frank with each other, and to state fully and without concealment our respective points of view. It would be most unfortunate if any loophole were left open for future misunderstandings.

In examining the Memorandum which I had communicated privately to him, he thought we should find no difficulty in coming to an agreement on points 1, 3, 4 and 5; but he was not quite clear as to the meaning and scope of point 2, in which I had mentioned that Russia should recognize that Great Britain by reason of her geographical position had a special interest in seeing that the external relations of Thibet were not disturbed by any other Power. The word "disturbed" somewhat puzzled him, and he would like some explanation as to what would be considered a "disturbance." He thought that the various engagements laid down in points 1, 3, 4 and 5, and which the Russian Government would probably accept, covered any possibility of intervention of any nature. At the same time, if Russia recognized the special interests of Great Britain by reason of the geographical position of the latter, he thought that my Government should be willing to acknowledge what he termed the "spiritual" interest of Russia in Thibet.

He repeated to me what he had said on a previous occasion that the Buddhist subjects of Russia, who were an important section, in view of their habitat and of their military aptitude, looked to the Dalai Lama as their spiritual Chief. As Russia, out of regard to her Catholic subjects, had found it necessary to have relations with the spiritual Chief of the Roman Catholic religion, so would she find it desirable, and, indeed, had already found it desirable, to have relations with the spiritual Chief of her Buddhist subjects. He did not see how it would be possible for Russia to engage to abstain from all intercourse with the Dalai Lama without offending and possibly estranging her Buddhist subjects. He wished me to be under no misconception. He had no desire to insist on maintaining relations with this or that individual Dalai Lama, but he considered it necessary that some arrangement should be arrived at which would enable Russia to hold communication with whatever Dalai Lama was in authority on matters strictly and solely pertaining to religious questions. This was a question which, he trusted, would be taken into serious consideration by His Majesty's Government, and he hoped that some understanding would be reached. I doubtless was aware that a representative from the Dalai Lama had visited St. Petersburg, and that presents and letters had passed between the Russian Government and the Dalai Lama. It would be difficult for the Russian Government to explain or to justify to their Buriat subjects that they were to be cut off from communication with their spiritual Head because a foreign Power had so desired.

M. Isvolsky then alluded to my mention that no Russian official in any capacity whatever should be admitted into Thibet. He said that of late years the Russian Geographical Society had sent a Mission into Thibet which had rendered great services to geographical science; services which, he believed, had been handsomely recognized by our Geographical Society by the grant of a gold medal. It was surely not desired by my Government that Thibet should be secluded absolutely and entirely from the rest of the world, and that no Mission should be permitted to

enter it even when prosecuting a perfectly non-political and solely scientific object. Every one of any note or position in Russia was an official of some sort, and if the word "official" was interpreted strictly and literally this would be an effectual bar to any man of science interesting himself directly in Thibetan geography and other matters of interest to science. This question also he wished that His Majesty's Government would take into consideration. Moreover, he remarked that, while we wished to rigorously exclude all Russians from Thibet, we had provided by our Convention for the occasional visit to Lhasa itself of one of our officials.

To these observations of M. Isvolsky I replied that I cordially agreed with him as to the necessity of perfect frankness between us. Each of us would, of course, endeavour to the best of his power to safeguard and protect the interests of his own country, but it would be most unfortunate if we did not state freely all doubts and objections, as, if an Agreement were happily reached eventually, it must be a complete one without any ambiguity whatever.

With regard to his observations as to point 2, the word "disturbed" was perfectly clear in English, and it seemed to me to comprise not only any direct intervention but any action by irresponsible agents or any desire to interfere in the relations between Thibet and the Suzerain Power. It might be perhaps difficult to give its exact equivalent in another language; but I would lay before you his doubts on the expression. As to what he had been good enough to say in regard to the recognition by my Government of the "spiritual interest of Russia in Thibet," I would of course communicate his observations to you. I did not quite understand how such a recognition could be expressed in specific terms, but I presumed that he desired that the relations with the Dalai Lama, in so far as an occasional mission to St. Petersburg and intercourse between the Buriats and that personage were concerned, should be admitted so far as they were restricted to strictly religious questions. I desired, I said, to express no opinion on this point; I only wished to assure myself that I had correctly interpreted his wishes. M. Isvolsky said that the above were his views. With respect to the scientific geographical missions, I observed that I could not give an opinion, but that I would communicate with you on that question also.

Referring to the occasional despatch of a British official to Lhasa, I told M. Isvolsky that I had read both the Convention of 1904 and the Blue Book quite recently. Without documents in my hand I did not like to trust absolutely to my memory, but I was almost certain that no mention was made in the Convention of 1904 as to a British official proceeding to Lhasa, and that I had a distinct remembrance that the proposal that a British official should occasionally visit Lhasa from our trade marts had been negatived positively by His Majesty's late Government. M. Isvolsky maintained that his view was the correct one; and I said we could easily verify the matter on consulting the Blue Book, on which his Excellency had relied for his statement. On returning home, I found that my recollection was correct, and I therefore propose to draw M. Isvolsky's attention to the matter in a private letter.

M. Isvolsky concluded our conversation by saying that his remarks were purely informal, and that they were merely preliminary to future conversations after he had made a closer examination of the whole question.

I feel great diffidence in expressing any views on questions on which you are in a position to obtain the opinion of experts who have made a thorough study of the points at issue. But I trust that I may be permitted to state, as a personal view, that I think that M. Isvolsky will endeavour to secure the maintenance of relations in some form with the Dalai Lama, which it seems to me he considers as a set-off to the facilities we have obtained for commercial intercourse. It would be difficult no doubt to define exactly the nature of the communications or relations which might be considered admissible, and it would be still more difficult, if not impossible, to insure that the relations or communications were confined within any definite limits. I am afraid we shall meet with some difficulties on this point, but I trust that they will not be found to be insurmountable. I presume that missions from the Dalai Lama to St. Petersburg, even if merely occasional and restricted in character, would not be favourably viewed by His Majesty's Government; and I do not imagine that the Russian Government seriously intend to insist on that special point. I think it would be well if I were to inquire of M. Isvolsky to give me more precise information as to what relations have existed between the Buriats and the Dalai Lama, and perhaps any intercourse which might be necessary could be transacted through some Thibetan Lama who is resident in the Buriat districts, and who could serve as a channel of communication with the Dalai Lama or his representative at Lhasa through the intermediary of the Chinese Amban.

I did not go into details with M. Isvolsky at my interview, as it seemed to me desirable that he should be encouraged to talk unchecked, and that I should be enabled to lay before you the full expression of his views.

I do not think that the question of geographical missions will be seriously pressed. I imagine that they would be viewed with considerable suspicion, and it would not be easy to remain satisfied that these missions would be restricted to inquiries and studies of a purely scientific character. Perhaps while not absolutely and finally excluding such missions from Thibet, you might feel disposed to instruct me to intimate that this question might be left open on condition that no such mission should be dispatched for a specified term of years, and until the situation in Thibet was more settled and satisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

P.S.—I beg leave to inclose copy of a private letter which I addressed to M. Isvolsky in regard to the dispatch of a British official to Lhasa, and also of his reply.

A. N.

Inclosure 1 in No. 142.

Sir A. Nicolson to M. Isvolsky.

Le 14 Juin, 1906.

Mon cher Ministre,

VOUS avez bien voulu exprimer hier l'opinion que nous nous sommes réservé, dans la Convention de 1904, le droit d'envoyer, en cas de besoin, un agent à Lhasa pour régler les différends commerciaux qui n'ont pas pu être arrangés sur place. Sans doute votre Excellence avait dans l'esprit l'engagement signé à Lhasa par le Colonel Younghusband et les autorités Thibétaines le même jour que la signature de la Convention a eu lieu. Cet engagement se trouve à p. 266 du Blue Book sur "East India (Thibet) No. 3."

L'engagement susmentionné a été cependant désavoué par le Gouvernement Britannique comme il est dit en paragraphe 5 d'une dépêche au Vice-roi des Indes et qui se trouve à pp. 84-6 du même Blue Book.

La Convention de 1904 ne fait pas mention d'un pareil engagement. Je voudrais rectifier un petit malentendu, et je vous prie, &c.

(Signé) A. NICOLSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 142.

M. Isvolsky to Sir A. Nicolson.

Le 2 (15) Juin, 1906.

Mon cher Ambassadeur,

JE m'empresse de vous remercier de votre aimable billet. C'est avec le plus vif plaisir que je prends note de la rectification qu'il contient, et je profite, &c.

(Signé) ISVOLSKY.

[21448]

No. 143.

Sir A. Nicolson to Sir Edward Grey.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 384.)

Sir,

St. Petersburg, June 20, 1906.

AT his usual weekly reception to-day M. Isvolsky asked me if I had any reply to the observations which he had made in regard to the proposed Thibet arrangement. I told his Excellency that I had telegraphed a very short résumé of his remarks, but that I had asked you to be good enough to await a full written report, which I was sending home by to-morrow's messenger. I desired, I said, that you should be in full possession of his views, and that it was difficult to give a detailed report by telegram.

M. Isvolsky replied that he quite agreed with me, and he then recapitulated to me all the points which he had mentioned at our previous interview. I told him that I had faithfully reported all the points without any omission. He then said that there

was one point which he had not previously mentioned, and that was in speaking of "Thibet" with special reference to no Russian officials being admitted therein. Did we mean "Thibet" as a geographical expression, that is, as defined by geographical limits, or as an administrative unit? He explained that he made this inquiry, as there were certain districts in the northern and western parts of Thibet which lay within the boundaries of Thibet, but were not under Thibetan administration. I told him that this was a question on which I must consult you.

He added that, at our last conversation, he had spoken of the Dalai Lama alone as spiritual head of the country. He had since ascertained there was also the Tashi Lama, who had almost equal prerogatives, and, as he understood, a separate administrative district. It was possible that, in certain cases, the Russian Buddhists might find it necessary to be in relations with the latter also. He would like me to mention this to you. I said that I would do so. He further stated that he was much obliged to me for having corrected him in regard to our trade agent at Gyangtse being empowered to proceed from time to time to Lhasa.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. NICOLSON.

[21675]

No. 144.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 25.)

Sir,

India Office, June 23, 1906.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Morley to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Campbell's letter of the 16th June, relative to the negotiations now proceeding at St. Petersburg regarding Thibet.

In reply I am to inclose, for Secretary Sir E. Grey's information, a copy of recent correspondence with the Government of India on the question of scientific and other expeditions being permitted to enter Thibet from British India.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. GODLEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 144.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

May 11, 1906.

ON the strength of promises of assistance given by my predecessor, Dr. Sven Hedin, who is expected at Simla towards the close of the present month, and who proposes to make an eighteen months' journey to the Central Thibet Lake region, asks for services of three native assistants, and possibly of a small number of Gurkhas. Unless steps are taken to insure our deriving full benefit from his researches, and if such journeys are to be prohibited to our own officers, we deprecated permission being given to him. For many reasons, however, we recognize that absolute refusal of his requests would be difficult. Our proposal is therefore that he should be permitted to proceed with the Assistant Commissioner of Kulu to Gartok on visit of inspection of Trade Mart there. We hope that at Gartok it may be possible for Trade Agent at Gyantse to meet him, and provided local Thibetan officials raise no objection, arrange for his further explorations. After he parts from Trade Agent our responsibility for him would end, though latter would help him, if he so desires, to leave Thibet by the Gyantse route. We do not think he should be allowed to travel down Brahmaputra Valley, exploration of which it is desired to reserve for one of our own officers, as this might at present rouse opposition on part of Lhasa authorities which it is hoped our own proposals would not excite. If Thibetans make opposition Sven Hedin will have to come back with our officers. Owing to effect produced by Thibet Mission, he will probably, as in the case of Count Lesdain, be able to make his journey, entering Thibet from the north, even if permission to cross the frontier is refused by us; and should expedition be carried out in spite of our opposition, our officers will still be obliged to help him in leaving the country. General question of travelling in Thibet forms the subject of a letter, which we are addressing to you; meanwhile, please telegraph instructions regarding Sven Hedin's journey as time presses.

Inclosure 2 in No. 144.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, May 15, 1906.

THIBET: Your telegram dated the 11th May, 1906.

It should be explained to Sven Hedin that it is impossible for us to ask for facilities for him, which we decline to ask for from the Thibetan Government in the case of our own officers, and that he cannot be permitted, in the circumstances, to cross our frontier. I presume that no examination of goldfields will be included in Assistant Commissioner's visit to Gartok, and that it will be confined strictly to purposes of trade. On receipt of your letter dealing with the general subject, Sven Hedin's application will be given further consideration.

Inclosure 3 in No. 144.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

May 26, 1906.

THIBET.

We should be glad to receive instructions by telegraph as to whether Tei Suzuki, the Japanese traveller, should be permitted to cross into Thibet over the Kashmir frontier. He travelled from Europe via Persia and the Nushki route to Srinagar, and has left the latter place for Leh with the intention of travelling back to India through Thibet. He is a professor at the Kyoto Buddhist College, and states that study of Buddhist religion is the object of his visit, and that, after he has left Leh, he will adopt the costume of a Buddhist Lama, to which class he is said to belong.

Inclosure 4 in No. 144.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, May 29, 1906.

ADMISSION of travellers into Thibet.

Your telegram of the 26th instant. Pending consideration of general question, treatment of the Japanese traveller should be as indicated in my telegram dated the 15th instant.

Inclosure 5 in No. 144.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, June 1, 1906.

MY telegram dated the 15th May. Thibet.

Assistant Commissioner, Kulu, is reported by Reuter to have been ordered to proceed to Gartok. Before he is permitted to start, please let me have details of instructions given him.

Inclosure 6 in No. 144.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

June 7, 1906.

THIBET. Your telegram dated the 1st instant.

We would invite reference to our despatch of the 17th May, paragraphs 6 and 7, as to deputation to Gartok of Assistant Commissioner, Kulu. Instructions to Assistant Commissioner would be that he should proceed via the Shipki to Gartok and return by the Rudok and Hanle, if there is no objection on part of Thibetans, and examine and

report upon conditions of existing trade between Thibet and the Punjab. Mr. Hayden will not now accompany the party in pursuance of instructions conveyed in your telegram of the 15th May. We trust you will approve proposal, but, pending receipt of your instructions, departure of officer will be postponed. Preparations for deputation are now well advanced to allow of its taking place during present season.

Inclosure 7 in No. 144.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, June 14, 1906.

DEPUTATION to Gartok of Assistant Commissioner, Kulu. Your telegram dated the 7th June.

I assume that you are satisfied that journey viâ Shipki will not be objected to by Thibetans. On the understanding that officer confines himself strictly to examination of conditions of existing trade, I agree to his deputation viâ Shipki to Gartok, and, if there is no objection on part of Thibetans, to his return viâ Rudok and Hanle.

Inclosure 8 in No. 144.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Telegraphic.) P.

June 2, 1906.

ADMISSION of travellers into Thibet. Please refer to paragraph 11 of my despatch of the 17th May and to your telegram of the 16th May respecting proposed journey of Dr. Sven Hedin. Present orders regarding journeys in Thibet have, we desire to point out, produced a somewhat anomalous position. You asked for facilities, in your despatch of the 6th April, 1906, for Herr von Almasy, whose intention it was proceeding from the north to cross the Karakoram Pass. Last year we discouraged this traveller when he wished to enter Thibet from India. Your despatch of the 23rd March, 1906, informed us that Dr. Zugmayer, relying upon the help which he expects our officers in the south will afford him, is about to enter Thibet from the north. There is also the case of the Japanese traveller referred to in my telegram of the 26th May. Sven Hedin, on being informed on his arrival at Simla on the 22nd instant that he cannot be allowed to enter Thibet from India, announced that he intended to enter it from the north. If, in these circumstances, on receipt of my despatch of the 17th May, you cannot modify your orders, may we, in order to remove reproach that Thibet is now open to travellers in general, except British officers, permit British officers to enter the country from the north?

It is not proposed to take any action in the case of Dr. Zugmayer pending receipt of your reply.

Inclosure 9 in No. 144.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

(Secret.)

Sir,

Simla, May 17, 1906.

WE have the honour to address you on the subject of the grant of permission to British officers and others to undertake journeys in Thibet.

2. Prior to the dispatch of the recent Mission, British officers were, on various occasions, granted permission to cross the frontier into Thibet for the purpose of sport or scientific exploration. They were, as a rule, warned, before starting, by the Government of India to be careful to avoid any dispute or collision with the Thibetans, and they were also instructed not to cross the frontier at any place where the local civil officers might object to their doing so.

3. Subsequent to the return of the Mission we have considered it necessary to follow a somewhat different policy in regard to the matter. Our relations with the Thibetan

Government have been placed upon a settled basis by the conclusion of the Lhasa Agreement, but although in Article 2 of that Agreement it was provided that British subjects should have free access to all recognized trade marts by existing routes, no arrangements were made on the subject of general travel in Thibet. This, however, is not prohibited by the Convention, and the action of the Lhasa authorities in granting passports for British parties to travel to Gartok and Simla, to Tachienlu and down the Brahmaputra to Assam indicates that they did not consider that such journeys were entirely out of the question.

Eventually, no doubt, it must be impossible to draw any line of severance between journeys undertaken for commercial ends and those made with any other object. In numerous cases in other parts of the world, towns and countries have been declared by Treaty to be open for purposes of trade, but it is doubtful if any instance could be found in which the right of entry has been confined to traders, and has not been extended to persons travelling for amusement, scientific research, or other purposes. It would seem, therefore, that we may ultimately claim for all British subjects, whatever the object of their journey, the right of access, without let or hindrance, to recognized marts by any route leading from the British frontier, as also the right to travel by "existing routes," that is to say, by any route travelled prior to the conclusion of the Treaty.

4. We have thought it desirable, however, in view of the recent unsettled state of Thibetan politics, to avoid asserting such rights as we possess, in order to postpone raising in any controversial form the question of their precise extent. We have accordingly made arrangements to restrict the passage of the frontier on the southern and western border of Thibet, and have prohibited all Europeans from crossing the frontier without our express sanction. This sanction has only been granted very sparingly, and to persons of known discretion, who have had occasion to travel in the direction of the recognized trade marts. In consequence of these measures, there has been no single instance of dispute or collision with the local Thibetans.

Such applications as we have received from persons desirous of conducting extended journeys in Thibet have been refused, and in this connection we would refer to your predecessor's telegram, dated the 6th October, 1905, in which we were instructed not to apply to Lhasa for a passport for Mr. Wilton, who was desirous of travelling through South-Eastern Thibet to Batang.

5. In view, however, of the fact that the Chinese Government have now signed a Convention declaring their adhesion to the Lhasa Agreement,* it is desirable, in our opinion, to consider whether the restrictions hitherto imposed on the entrance of travellers into Thibet should be to any extent relaxed, and to define clearly the attitude to be adopted by the Government of India towards the whole question in future.

6. With regard to the less ambitious class of journeys, namely, those undertaken for the purpose of sport, amusement, or in pursuit of other objects than trade, we think that the sanction of the Government of India should continue to be required, for the present, in all cases before the frontier is crossed. Under the regulations which have been or are now being framed, no journey across the Thibetan frontier can be undertaken without official sanction. Such sanction would, in no case, be granted to missionaries for some time to come, as the Lhasa Government is keenly suspicious of anything resembling an attempt to interfere with the national religion. Other applications would be dealt with on their merits, particular consideration being paid to the qualifications of the intending traveller, the object of the journey, and the proposed itinerary. Persons suspected of intentions to prospect for gold would be refused admission into the country, and sportsmen allowed to cross the frontier would be specially warned against doing anything likely to offend the prejudices of the local inhabitants with whom they might come in contact.† The Gartok trade post would be inspected from time to time, if possible, by an officer from a British district adjoining Western Thibet, as was done last year by Mr. Sherring, or by the British Trade Agent at Gyantse, and the opportunity would be taken, whenever convenient, to send a scientific officer with the party in order to collect interesting information regarding the features of the country.

7. We have already arranged that a trip should be made to Gartok this year by the Assistant Commissioner of Kulu with whom will be sent a geological officer, Mr. Hayden.

* *Vide* your telegram of April 27, 1906.

† See paragraph 29 (2) of Mr. Sherring's Report forwarded to India Office with Secretary's weekly letter, dated October 19, 1905.

We attach considerable importance to Mr. Hayden accompanying the Assistant Commissioner on this occasion since, as you are aware, gold-fields exist in Western Thibet. The richness of these has been possibly exaggerated by rumour and as they have attracted some attention in mining circles it is desirable that the Government of India should be in possession of accurate information collected by a competent observer regarding the value of the deposits near Gartok.

8. We now proceed to deal with the further question of journeys in Thibet beyond the recognized trade marts. We have on various occasions received applications for permission to undertake protracted journeys in Thibet for scientific purposes. The case of Mr. Wilton who desired to travel through the south-eastern portion of Thibet to Batang has already been referred to above. Major Ryder, R.E., has volunteered to ascertain whether it would be possible to open up a trade route along the line of the Brahmaputra River from Assam into Thibet. This journey, as you are aware, might be expected to produce results of considerable geographical and commercial importance and the desirability of encouraging exploration in this direction has recently been urged by the Royal Geographical Society, and the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. Captain Rawling, who has already done good work in Western Thibet, has offered to conduct an expedition for the purpose of examining the trade routes in that part of the country. Mr. Bell, who till lately held the post of Assistant Political Officer, Chumbi, has expressed a desire to be allowed to visit the districts of Kongbu, Lharugo, Takpo, Tsona, and Tawang returning to India by Gauhati in Assam by a route which has not yet been explored by any European, while Captain O'Connor has prepared a plan for extensive work in the south-eastern portion of Thibet. Dr. Sven Hedin, the Swedish traveller, has submitted to us a proposal for the exploration of the region of the great Central Lakes, the country between the Sangpo and the Dangra Yumtso, the region from which the Indus and the Sangpo take their beginnings and the course of the Upper Brahmaputra. His ultimate aim is to connect his present journey with the route taken by him in 1901 and to return to India, if possible, by the gorge of the Brahmaputra. The main portion of the doctor's explorations is intended to cover a large area lying roughly between the 80th and 90th degrees of east longitude, and to the north of the Sangpo and Brahmaputra and Sutlej Rivers up as far (presumably) as 36° north latitude. Our geographical information about the greater part of this area is still very imperfect. Finally, Mr. Clementi, of the Hong Kong Government, wishes to travel from Wei Hsi to Sadiya, in Assam, and thence up the Brahmaputra to Lhasa, Khotan, Kashgar, and Samarkand.

9. Dr. Sven Hedin corresponded with Lord Curzon on the subject of his proposed journey last year, and Lord Curzon informed him in a letter, dated the 6th July, that, if the Thibetans continued friendly, an endeavour would be made to procure for him the necessary permits and protection from the Lhasa Government, and that assistance would be afforded to him in other ways by the Government of India. But his Lordship hinted at the same time that the portion of the doctor's plan which related to the descent down the gorges of the Brahmaputra would probably not be feasible, as the Government of India contemplated deputing an officer to perform this on their own behalf.

10. We are of opinion that it is most important for scientific and commercial reasons that the Government of India should not attempt to prohibit entirely journeys of the kind in question when undertaken by responsible and properly qualified officers, but in spite of the unofficial assurances given by Lord Curzon to Dr. Sven Hedin, we are of opinion that it would not be advisable to make any representation on his behalf to the Lhasa authorities, which we are not prepared to make, after due consideration of all the circumstances of the case, on behalf of any British officers whom we may wish to depute for exploration work in Thibet. The question for decision is whether the time has now arrived when any modification may suitably be made of the policy in accordance with which the Government of India have abstained from granting permission for travellers to journey with or without previous reference to Lhasa beyond the recognized trade marts and off the line of the existing trade routes.

11. As an instance of the inconvenience that may result if we rigorously refuse all permission for such journeys, we would draw your attention to the fact that the Thibetans recently offered no opposition to the Comte Lesdain, who succeeded in accomplishing a very adventurous journey in Thibet without a passport, and that Comte Lesdain ascribed the fact that he was not stopped on his journey to the effect produced by the British Mission to Lhasa. It is probable that, if permission is refused to travellers desiring to commence their explorations from the Indian frontier of Thibet, they will continue to enter the country from a northerly direction without

opposition from the Thibetans, and they will secure as their reward and as a consequence of the British Mission to Lhasa, but in despite of the refusal of assistance by the Government of India, scientific discoveries which might otherwise have been made by British officers. In addition to this, such journeys will be facilitated by the fact that it will necessarily be incumbent upon British officers at the trade marts to afford any reasonable assistance which such travellers may require in connection with their return journey across the difficult border country between Thibet and India.

12. After careful consideration of the question, we have arrived at the opinion, which we trust you will share, that the recent settlement with China of the adhesion question, by placing our relations with Thibet and its suzerain upon a clearly-defined footing, has removed to some extent the objections which formerly existed to asking such permission from the Lhasa Government, and that in any case we ought not to exclude all qualified travellers from Thibet, though we should retain a strict power of granting permits for such journeys, as are considered desirable or not open to objection. We would not at this stage run the risk of a refusal from Lhasa by asking for passports for parties to visit that place or any other part of the country, in order to reach which it would be necessary to pass near Lhasa. Our experience in the case of the journey of Captain Rawling's party to Gartok, and of Mr. Sherring to that place, and of Captain Fitzgerald from Chumbi to Shigatse and back to Sikkim by the Kangra La leads us to hope that, under the auspices of qualified officers in touch with the local Thibetan officials, much can be done to accustom the Thibetan Government to the journeys of British officers in the country. Then, as time went on, we could approach the Thibetan and local Chinese authorities, if necessary, for permission to extend our geographical researches to other parts of the country.

13. If we are permitted to send exploring expeditions into the interior of the country, we would propose to select from the applications which we have received those which we consider would have the best chances of success and which would be likely to produce the most valuable results from a scientific or political point of view. It would be necessary to insure that none but responsible and properly qualified persons should be permitted to proceed on such expeditions, and special injunctions would be given to each party to avoid any action likely to lead to political complications.

14. Among the applications which we have received we regard that of Dr. Sven Hedin as deserving of particular consideration, and we would propose, if you approve of the general policy outlined above, to lend our countenance and support to his undertaking. We would, however, make the grant of the assistance in the form of three native assistants and some Gourkas required by the doctor, subject to the following conditions:—

In the first place we think that, if the doctor's proposals receive our support, his journey should be undertaken in company with the Assistant Commissioner, Kulu, who will visit the Gartok trade mart in June. At Gartok he would be met by Lieutenant Bailey, the British Trade Agent at Gyantse, who would have arranged for a second visit to the subordinate trade mart with the local officials. Should Lieutenant Bailey not be able to meet him, it would be necessary for Dr. Sven Hedin to return, though we do not anticipate that Lieutenant Bailey will experience any difficulty in securing the requisite permission. Dr. Sven Hedin's movements beyond Gartok would be regulated by the advice of Lieutenant Bailey in consultation with the local officials, but in any case in order to lessen the risk of objection or opposition to the journey on the part of the Lhasa authorities, we would restrict his travels to the region north of the Brahmaputra and Sutlej Rivers between east longitude 80° and 90° which, according to his former work on Thibet, is largely under the control of our friends the Tashilumpo authorities. This includes the area which he himself wishes to examine, while restraining him from venturing towards Lhasa and the Nepal frontier. Lieutenant Bailey would inform Dr. Sven Hedin, if the latter separated from him, that no responsibility for his safety would rest upon the Government of India, though as Trade Agent he would do all he could to insure this and to assist him in returning to India by the Gyantse route, should he decide to adopt that road. In this way we should as far as possible insure that no trouble was occasioned by the journey, and that we received an adequate return for the countenance and support afforded. We do not consider that the Government of India have hitherto reaped as much advantage as they have a right to expect from the doctor's journeys in Thibet, and we are anxious therefore that a British officer should have opportunities of sharing the discoveries which may be expected to result from the expedition.

An additional reason for the imposition of these restrictions may be found in the fact that it is particularly desirable that the Government of India should be in

possession at an early date of any information that Dr. Sven Hedin may subsequently make available to the public regarding the mineral wealth of Thibet. We agree with Lord Curzon that, if the course of the Brahmaputra is to be explored, the work should be intrusted to a British officer rather than to Dr. Sven Hedin.

15. As Dr. Sven Hedin is now on his way to India, and will probably arrive in Simla during the latter part of this month, it is desirable that we should, as soon as possible, be placed in a position to give a definite answer to the requests for assistance which he will undoubtedly make. We have therefore addressed you by telegram on the subject of his journey and the observations now made on this subject are in further explanation of our views and in illustration of his application as bearing upon the general question of journeys in Thibet.

We have, &c.
(Signed)

MINTO.
KITCHENER.
A. T. ARUNDEL.
DENZIL IBBETSON.
H. ERLE RICHARDS.
E. N. BAKER.
C. H. SCOTT.
C. L. TUPPER.

Inclosure 10 in No. 144.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Secret.)

My Lord,

India Office, June 15, 1906.

I HAVE considered the Secret letter of your Excellency's Government in the Foreign Department of the 17th May, 1906. With it I have examined your foreign Secret telegram of the 2nd June. Your Excellency proposes that the policy of refusing to grant permission to enter Thibet from British territory to travellers, other than those visiting the trade marts under the terms of the Lhasa Convention of 1904, should be modified. It is further suggested that, even if the existing restrictions are maintained, British officers may be allowed to enter the country from Chinese territory in the north, as explorers have occasionally done in the past, and as Dr. Sven Hedin is reported to intend doing, if facilities to enter from British territory are refused him.

2. Your Excellency contemplates, as an ultimate and inevitable result of the recognized marts under the Lhasa Convention, that Thibet will be open to all British subjects travelling not only by any of the routes leading from our frontier to those marts, but also by any of the "existing routes," on the trade by which the Thibetan Government has undertaken "to place no restrictions." These routes you define as "any route travelled prior to the conclusion of the Treaty." What the ultimate result may prove to be is uncertain, but present transactions concern not the ultimate, but the immediate.

3. Again, the fact that certain claims may be made consistently with a strict and literal interpretation of the terms of the Lhasa Convention is by no means decisive of their expediency. The object of His Majesty's Government in concluding the Lhasa Convention was explicitly set out in my predecessor's Secret despatch, of the 2nd December, 1904. He defined that object as being, for one thing, the exclusion of foreign influence from Lhasa, and, for another, some security that "Thibet should remain in that state of isolation from which, till recently, she has shown no intention to depart, and which has hitherto caused her presence on our frontier to be a matter of indifference to us." The policy so stated has recently been carried an important step further by the successful issue of the negotiations initiated, after the conclusion with the Thibetan Government of the Lhasa Convention, to procure the adhesion of China, as suzerain over Thibet, to that Convention. Great Britain is now pledged under three heads: first, not to annex Thibetan territory; second, not to interfere in the administration of Thibet; and third, not to claim for herself concessions denied to other Powers under Article IX of the Lhasa Convention. China on her part is pledged not to permit any foreign Power to interfere with either the territory or the internal administration of Thibet. The conclusion of this Agreement removes the difficulties that would undoubtedly have existed if China, as the suzerain Power, had refused to recognize as binding on her the stipulations of the Lhasa Convention. Its importance as excluding

foreign influence from Lhasa, and maintaining Thibet in the desired state of isolation, is obvious. At the same time it must improve, among the various Powers having interests in Central Asia, the prospects of a friendly understanding as to their respective spheres of activity.

4. It is not necessary to recall to your Excellency the language used by my predecessor in his Secret despatch of the 5th August, 1904. He explained how the effect of Indian policy in relation to Afghanistan, Siam, Thibet, or any other dependency of the Chinese Empire, is liable to be felt throughout Europe. He insisted, therefore, that the course of affairs on the Indian frontiers cannot be decided without reference to Imperial exigencies elsewhere; and he urged how consistently averse the Government had been to any policy in Thibet that would tend to throw on the British Empire an additional burden.

These broad reasons weigh in equal force with His Majesty's present advisers; they are equally anxious to avoid interference with Thibetan affairs; and are especially anxious to avoid all action that might be expected to lay our policy open to misconception either at Lhasa or in other places.

5. In view of considerations such as these, His Majesty's Government are opposed to any relaxation of the restrictions hitherto imposed on travellers seeking to enter Thibet, and they regret to be unable to make an exception to the existing prohibition even in the case of specially qualified explorers such as those mentioned by you. I was compelled recently, with great reluctance, to refuse applications received from the Royal Geographical Society and the Royal Scottish Geographical Society for assistance in the work of exploring Thibet. The advance of science, as I need hardly assure your Excellency, has my warm sympathy. Nor do I ignore the value of the knowledge in which these projected explorations might bear fruit. But even the advance of geography must wait upon times and seasons, and the requirements of political and diplomatic convenience.

6. The difficulties likely to arise in connection with the journeys of foreigners in Thibet are obvious, and they are illustrated by the fact that though, as stated in your letter, the Thibetan Government agreed, after the conclusion of the Lhasa Convention, to allow a British party to proceed from Lhasa down the Brahmaputra to Assam, yet the Government of India did not consider it prudent to give effect to the project, and the journey was abandoned. Again, the grant of a passport to Mr. Wilton, empowering him to travel to Peking through Thibet, was refused by the Thibetan Government in 1905,* though while the Mission was still at Lhasa permission had been given him to travel by Tachienlu.

7. So far, then, as I can form an opinion on the information that has been laid before me by your Government, there is no sufficient ground for thinking that the Thibetan Government would regard with anything but dislike and distrust any application that we might make to them for passports. Your Excellency suggests as an alternative that we should permit our officers to enter the country from Chinese territory without the knowledge of the Thibetan Government. But would not a peculiarly embarrassing and disagreeable situation be created if, as the result of such permission, British subjects were ill-treated by the local Thibetan authorities? It might be that, with good fortune, officers travelling under these conditions would escape molestation, like the French traveller whom you mention. It would, however, be inexcusable in us to ignore the statements to be found in the reports of the Lhasa Mission as to the punishments inflicted by the Thibetan Government on persons suspected, after the event, of having assisted Sarat Chandra Das and the Japanese Kawaguchi during their travels in Thibet.

8. I should wish, in conclusion, to offer one or two remarks on your telegram of the 2nd June as to the help to be given to Europeans other than British subjects who are contemplating journeys from the north into Thibet. Your Excellency, I think, appears to have misunderstood the purport of my Secret despatches of the 23rd March and 6th April last. The facilities requested in the former despatch for Herr von Almasy were in respect of a journey not touching Thibet, and described as being "from Yarkand via the Karakorum and Leh to Simla, arriving eventually at Srinagar." Then, as regards Dr. Zugmayer, the inclosures to my despatch of the 23rd March will show that the German Embassy was informed by the Foreign Office that "the Government of India wished to discourage for the present the presence of travellers in Thibet," that "in the circumstances the Government of India regretted that they were unable to furnish letters of introduction to officers on the Thibet frontier," but that should Dr. Zugmayer,

* Viceroy's telegram, August 3, 1905

after entering Thibet from Chinese Turkestan, "arrive at the frontier of Thibet either by way of Gyantse or the western route to Leh, there would be no objection to the officers of the British Government being instructed to give him any reasonable facilities which he might require in connection with his return through British India." If the instructions in my despatch are faithfully executed, I do not see how it can be held that Dr. Zugmayer will "enter Thibet from the north, relying on assistance he expects to receive from our officers in the south." No action by our officers in respect of Dr. Zugmayer is needed till he reaches Gyantse or Gartok or the British frontier; and the instructions given in his case may be followed in the event of Dr. Sven Hedin and the Japanese traveller, mentioned in your telegram of the 26th May, if they arrive at the British frontier from the north. It should be explained to Dr. Sven Hedin that we cannot permit him to enter Thibet territory from British territory, and that we can on no account lend him native assistants or Ghurkas for the purposes of Thibetan exploration.

9. I find some secondary reasons for my objection to your proposals in the references made in your Excellency's letter to the appropriateness of keeping scientific exploration in British hands, and to the difficulties consequent on the presence in Thibet of missionaries, prospectors for gold, and sportsmen of the ordinary type. These strengthen the grounds of high Imperial policy that I have laid before your Excellency, but the latter grounds alone will, I trust, be thought, on full consideration, entirely to justify my decision.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN MORLEY.

[21761]

No. 145.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 26.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a paraphrase of telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 22nd instant, regarding facilities for journey of Chang, Chinese Commissioner to Thibet (sent with reference to this Office Memorandum of the 22nd instant).

India Office, June 26, 1906.

Inclosure in No. 145.

Mr. Morley to Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

June 22, 1906.

ADMISSION of travellers into Thibet. Your telegram dated the 22nd instant. As he is now at Simla, I do not think that Chang's proceeding thence to Gartok, if he wishes it, should be objected to. I concur as to facilities for his journey from Darjeeling. Your view that no encouragement should be given to regard his case as precedent, and that it should be treated as exceptional, has, however, my strong concurrence. Permission to proceed via the Shipki should not be given to Chang if Calvert's journey is obstructed by Thibetans. If Chang raises question of trade, I should be glad to be informed at once of his observations. There is no objection to discussing such questions with him if he raises them, but there should be no committal on our part.

[21875]

No. 146.

India Office to Foreign Office.—(Received June 27.)

THE Under-Secretary of State for India presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, by direction of Mr. Secretary Morley, forwards herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of—

- (a.) Letter from the Government of India, Secret, dated the 17th May, 1906.
- (b.) Paraphrase of telegram to the Viceroy, dated the 14th June, 1906.
- (c.) Telegram (decypher) from the Viceroy, dated the 27th June, 1906, regarding proposed erection of boundary pillars on the Sikkim-Thibet frontier.

India Office, June 27, 1906.

Inclosure 1 in No. 146.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

Sir,

Simla, May 17, 1906.

WE have the honour to forward, for the information of His Majesty's Government, copies of papers regarding the proposal to erect boundary pillars on the Sikkim-Thibet frontier in the neighbourhood of Giagong.

2. Under Article I of the Lhasa Agreement of 1904, the Thibetans are required to erect pillars on the boundary in question. We consider it advisable, therefore, to remind the Thibetans of their obligations in the matter of the boundary, and to offer facilities for their fulfilment before the period of three years fixed for the evacuation of the Chumbi Valley expires, so that it may not be necessary merely on this account to retain possession of the valley under the terms of the subsidiary declaration of the 11th November, 1904, after the indemnity has been paid up, unless for some unforeseen reason this is otherwise desirable.

We have, &c.
(Signed) MINTO.
KITCHENER.
A. T. ARUNDEL.
DENZIL IBBETSON.
H. ERLE RICHARDS.
E. N. BAKER.
C. H. SCOTT.
C. L. TUPPER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 146.

Mr. White to the Government of India.

December 31, 1904.

I HAVE the honour to inquire whether boundary pillars between Sikkim and Thibet will be erected during this year. If so, I would suggest that they be erected only along the northern boundary, viz., above Giagong.

Inclosure 3 in No. 146.

Government of India to Mr. White.

Simla, May 1, 1905.

I AM directed to reply to your letter, dated the 31st December, 1904, inquiring whether boundary pillars are to be erected between Sikkim and Thibet during the year, and suggesting that pillars be erected only above Giagong.

2. As you are aware, the need for boundary pillars in the neighbourhood of Giagong has, in the past, been closely associated with the question of grazing rights which were claimed by the Thibetans, and it is thought that in consequence of the friendly relations with the Thibetans which have been brought about by the conclusion of the recent Convention an amicable settlement of the disputed questions might be arranged. Before passing orders, the Government of India would be glad to have your views on the following points, viz. :—

The scale on which the demarcation should be carried out, i.e., what would be the minimum number of pillars required to show the Thibetans how the frontier runs, and what should be the strength of the demarcating party.

The length of time which it would probably take to effect a settlement.

The degree of urgency which may or may not exist for dealing at once with either the Giagong frontier or the grazing question.

The question of the advisability of postponing demarcation for another year.

It occurs to the Government of India that Captain O'Connor may be able to advise usefully as to the probable attitude of the Lhasa authorities, and I am to request that, if you see no objection, his views on the subject may be ascertained and reported for the information of the Government of India.

Inclosure 4 in No. 146.

Mr. White to the Government of India.

July 5, 1905.

IN reply to your letter of the 1st May, 1905, I have the honour to report:—

1. The question of grazing rights at or near Giagong, now that the boundary has been finally settled, can easily be arranged amicably between the people of the Lachen Valley and the Thibetans. I would interfere very little, if at all, with the old customs, and would allow the Thibetans to bring in their yaks to graze at certain times of the year, provided they allow the Sikkim people to do the same in Thibet, as was formerly done.

2. The number of pillars required would be only ten—one on the Naku La, one on the Sebu La, and eight along the remaining northern boundary from near the Sebu La to Kangchung La. They would be situated approximately as shown on the accompanying map. There is no necessity for any pillars along the western portion, as it is an inaccessible ridge.

3. The time required to erect the pillars would be two to three weeks, as I would send up all the necessary materials beforehand to Giagong.

4. There appears to me no urgency. I would go up this year and talk over the question of grazing rights, and think the erection of pillars might be postponed till next year, and in this way I would keep up more constant interview with the local officials.

5. This letter has been delayed owing to my having to send to Captain O'Connor regarding the attitude of the Lhasa authorities. I have now received his reply. Captain O'Connor is of opinion that "the Lhasa Government will raise no objection to the proposed demarcation, as the erection of pillars on this frontier, as defined in the Convention of 1890, is clearly legislated for in Clause I of the Treaty signed at Lhasa in September last. The co-operation of the Lhasa Government in the determination of the actual boundary line and the erection of pillars thereon might, in my opinion, [be invited, and Thibetan officials might] be requested to meet you at a time and place convenient to yourself."

Inclosure 5 in No. 146.

[Sketch Map.]

Inclosure 6 in No. 146.

Government of India to Mr. White.

Simla, July 26, 1905.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 5th July, 1905, in which you propose that you should visit the Sikkim-Thibet boundary in the neighbourhood of Giagong this year with a view to a preliminary discussion on the spot of the questions connected with it.

2. I am to say that your proposal is approved. It is assumed that due notice of your intended visit will be given to the Lhasa authorities in order that arrangements may be made for the deputation of Thibetan officials of suitable rank to meet you.



Inclosure 7 in No. 146.

Extract from the Diary of Captain O'Connor, British Trade Agent at Gyantse, for the week ending the 3rd September, 1905.

August 28, 1905.—The Jongpen came up in the morning to say that he had received a letter from Lhasa containing a message to me with reference to the letter which I had dispatched to the Ti-Rimpoche, by Mr. White's instructions, requesting the Lhasa Government to depute officials to meet Mr. White at or near Khamba Jong on the 17th August for the purpose of erecting boundary pillars upon the Sikkim-Thibet frontier, and of discussing questions of grazing rights. The Lhasa Government, in reply to this, said that my letter (which I handed to the Jongpen on the 1st August) had reached them only on the 6th August, and that it was quite impossible for them to select, fit out, and dispatch officials from Lhasa in time to reach Khamba Jong by the date named, and they hoped this would be understood, and not considered unreasonable.

Inclosure 8 in No. 146.

Government of India to Mr. White.

Fort William, March 19, 1906.

I AM directed to refer to the correspondence ending with my letter, dated the 26th July, 1905, regarding your proposal that you should visit the Sikkim-Thibet boundary in the neighbourhood of Giagong with a view to the preliminary discussion on the spot of the questions connected with it.

2. From Captain O'Connor's diary for the 28th August, 1905, it appears that the Lhasa Government were unable to depute officials to meet you last year, and I am to inquire how the matter stands at present.

Inclosure 9 in No. 146.

Mr. White to the Government of India.

Gangtok, March 26, 1906.

WITH reference to Mr. Holland's letter, dated the 19th March, 1906, regarding my proposal to visit the Sikkim-Thibet boundary in the neighbourhood of Giagong with a view to a preliminary discussion on the spot of the questions connected with it, I have the honour to report that it was too late last year to take up the matter especially as the Lhasa authorities were unable to depute officials of proper standing to meet me at such short notice as I was able to give them, but I propose on my return from my rains tour in June or July, of which mention was made in my letter to you, to take up this matter, and will now communicate with the Lhasa authorities to arrange for the deputation of officials of suitable rank to meet me on the frontier.

Inclosure 10 in No. 146.

Mr. Morley to the Government of India.

(Telegraphic.) P.

India Office, June 14, 1906.

SIKKIM-THIBET frontier. Your despatch of the 17th May.

I should be glad to be informed whether absence of boundary pillars or question of grazing rights have recently given rise to any practical difficulties; also whether communications mentioned in letter, dated the 26th March last, from Mr. White on the subject of the boundary pillars has been made, and, if so, in what terms, to the Lhasa authorities?

Inclosure 11 in No. 146.

Government of India to Mr. Morley.

June 27, 1906.

(Telegraphic.) P.

THIBET: Boundary pillars on Sikkim frontier. Your telegram dated the 14th instant.

We do not press for construction of boundary pillars if you do not think future trouble may arise from their non-erection, and if you do not desire Article I of Lhasa Convention to be fulfilled. Political officer reports that no inconvenience regarding frontier or rights of grazing has been felt, and that no communication to Lhasa Government has yet been made by him.

Further Correspondence Respecting the Affairs of Thibet Part VII January to June 1906. Feb. 1907.
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